FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REPORTAGE, COMMENTARIES ON STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

GDR Foreign Minister's Speech

LD171806 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1608 GMT 17 Jan 84

["Declaration of Principle by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer" -- ADN headline]

[Text] Stockholm, 17 Jan (ADN) -- The text of the Declaration of Principle by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer at the Stockholm conference on confidence and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe is as follows:

Mr. President, permit me to warmly thank the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for its hospitality and for your efforts to see that the conference is well organized. I combine this with best wishes for successful work by the executive secretary of the conference, Ambassador Jan Af Sillen, and his assistants.

The conference on confidence and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe is taking place in a difficult international situation. The dangers to peace in Europe and the whole world have multiplied with the beginning of deployment of new U.S. nuclear weapons on West European territory. The peoples are being put to one of the most severe tests of the postwar periods. Today they see their physical existence threatened and they are resisting this with all their might. This makes the tasks of this conference clear and places an exceptional responsibility on the participating states.

Everything must indeed be done to halt this development which threatens mankind and to assist in guiding international relations back into the calm channels of peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation. The 1970's were a decade of hope and encouragement for the peoples and they must not be followed by years of resignation and growing fear of war.

This is the task entrusted to this conference by the Madrid Final Declaration, and the GDR is prepared to cooperate in its fulfillment with good will.

The Stockholm conference is the result of many years of intensive efforts by all those who have peace and security in Europe at heart. The development of peaceful, flourishing relations among the European states as the basis for collective security on this continent is a tenet of socialist policy.

There is a straight path from the proposals of the socialist states for this in the 1950's -- that is, in the middle of a period characterized by the "cold war" against the socialist states -- and from the 1966 proposal for a European security conference and the urgent appeal to convene this in 1969, to their initiative for the conference which is beginning here today. This path -- and who can dispute it? -- has proved itself and is a viable one. Its most important and -- for the European peoples -- beneficial results was the change in international relations toward detente and peaceful coexistence.

The Helsinki Final Act, the European system of treaties, and the broad network of political, economic, and cultural contacts among the European states and peoples prove that detente in our time is not only necessary but possible. All this proves that national security cannot be detached from international security and security in general can only be achieved if:

-- reason and a sense of reality,

-- equality and equal security, that is to say respect for the legitimate security interests of all involved,

-- renunciation of striving for military superiority, and

-- the political will for cooperation, including fruitful coexistence in the interest of peace, are the guidelines of policy.

Our continent has given such an example of the political solution of conflicts and relaxed interstate relations.

The further course of international development also confirmed, however, that international security is in the end only stable if political detente is complemented by military detente. The imperialist arms buildup and the striving for military superiority, the politics of force and the course of "credible deterrence" are accompanied by conceptions of a nuclear war to "decapitate" the Soviet Union, one which can be limited to Europe and won. This is directly aimed against the Helsinki Final Act and must undermine trust and lead to confrontation, even to a threat to peace. This is the current situation.

The GDR, as Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR State Council chairman said, will "actively use the Stockholm conference, to reduce the military confrontation on our continent and to make relations between states predictable again."

Our strategy for this is reasonable, because it is geared to the actualities and demands of the situation on our continent. It was made known to the public a year ago in the form of the Prague declaration of the Warsaw Pact states and in June 1983 by the Moscow statement of leading representatives of socialist states. This integrated program for strengthening trust and reducing world tensions, above all for averting nuclear disaster, embraces measures against nuclear arms and proposals for the limitation of conventional arms, military action, and action zones.

It points to possible and necessary negotiations on lessening the danger of war and on the limitation of arms, as well as to ways to make measurable progress in the existing forums, in which negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament have been going on for up to 10 years without success in spite of unilateral advance concessions and symbolic steps by the socialist states.

It is not logical nor is it comprehensible why, for example, the other nuclear powers did not long ago, like the USSR, renounce the first use of nuclear weapons bindingly under international law, since they continually claim that they only want to use nuclear weapons as a response to an attack.

Their readiness to undertake this renunciation would at last be a credible step toward confidence and security-building. Last but not least, the danger would be averted of seriously affecting the Stockholm conference by having it take place under the Damocles' sword of first-strike strategies and decapitation strategies.

Under the present conditions political responsibility and reason entail that the agenda should include the conclusion of a treaty on the nonuse of military force and the preservation of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states. It would contain undertakings, binding under international law, to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons and conventional weapons, and could contain commitments to take joint practical measures to avert the danger of a surprise attack.

He who rejects this proposal with the excuse that the ban on the use of force is sufficiently anchored in the UN Charter must be asked: What harm would it do today, at a time when NATO and the Warsaw Pact are confronting each other as the largest military coalitions, to make an express, treaty-based affirmation of their general commitment to refrain from the use of force against each other, particularly as other interested states have been called upon to join them? The UN Charter would not be weakened thereby; on the contrary, its authority would grow. Who could rationally deny this? Have the well-known ideas and initiatives on the creation of nuclear-free zones lost any of their urgency? Quite the opposite. They should be discussed immediately and seriously.

Hence I should like to reaffirm the GDR's readiness to make its whole territory available in connection with the proposal of the Swedish Government for a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe, with regard for the principle of equality and equal security. This could be an area which crosses the whole of Europe, from north to south. This would certainly not be much, but it would be a step in the right direction, just a measure that will give a profound reason for confidence.

Another element which would have an immediate confidence-building effect would be the liberation of our continent from chemical weapons, as proposed by the Warsaw Pact states on 10 January 1984. Such an agreement would not only take away people's fear of such a horrific kind of weapon, at the same time it would be a stimulating example for other frightening weapons and for other regions in the world.

It is to just such an approach that the GDR feels committed, and all the states at this conference should be committed. Like all the socialist states, the GDR has approached all issues touching on peace, international security, and disarmament with initiative and accomodativeness, with readiness for compromise -- that is, with the political will to achieve results. We have relinquished many of our own justified demands in the interests of a general agreement. This is also part of peaceful coexistence.

We expect such an attitude from all the participating states. We have not overlooked the fact that, just prior to the Stockholm conference, many people insisted that they have the will to work for confidence-building and disarmament. In the future, there is even to be no more talk of the "empire of evil," there is to be compromise. The value of these verbal claims will be proven swiftly, since it can be measured by the willingness to return to constructive cooperation. No confidence can grow from arms buildup, just as nothing can counterbalance the mistrust that inevitably arises if ever more missiles threaten the lives of the peoples.

Hardly have the first missiles been reported to be operational than the continuation of the course of arms buildup is vociferously proclaimed, together with a "policy of credible deterrence." Besides the modernization of the so-called nuclear triad and plans for the militarization of space, a swift development of conventional forces is called for. But the strategy of deterrence is not a foundation for trust and security among states. The creation of trust and security today means above all 1) stopping the deployment of more U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe, 2) immediate dismantling of the missiles already stationed.

We must get back to the situation before deployment began. And this should be done without delay or prevarications, so that no military countermeasures on our side are necessary. Would it not be worthwhile to commit oneself to a nuclear-free Europe? On the other hand it is not only politically irresponsible but quite dangerous to persuade oneself or others that the new U.S. missiles have not changed the situation, that everything -- and this conference is a good example -- is going on as before, since this flies in the face of the facts.

As these facts show, important negotiations were blocked because their basis was removed. Thus this conference and the bilateral relations of the states involved are fraught with problems which at least hinder cooperation to achieve what is so necessary.

Bilateral relations, too, can contribute more than ever today to strengthening trust. Every state must show this by strict adherence to obligations entered into in the Helsinki Final Act and the European network of treaties. Only in this way, only jointly, can the damage which has been done be limited in the present situation.

If one is guided by political reason and realism, then it will be possible to agree on such confidence and security-forming measures in the first phase of the conference, which contain a mutual reduction of military activity, reduce the scale of military exercises, and contribute in particular to reducing the danger of surprise attacks.

Of course we cannot overlook that not everything offered at this conference as "confidence and security-forming" really fulfills these expectations. Thus, for example, the mere announcement of maneuvers or larger military movements alone cannot create confidence. Similarly, it would not be compatible with the aims of the conference if one were to restrict oneself to merely informing the participating states about new arms plans. And it would not stand up to examination, because it would create new mistrust, indeed even increase insecurity, if ideas become central whose sole purpose lies in creating military advantages. Such approach would lead the conference to a dead end.

Logically, lasting security can only be based on disarmament. Every effective step in this direction by itself creates more confidence than anything agreed while the arms race continues. We are guided by this in both stages of this conference.

The conferences in Helsinki, Belgrade, and Madrid have shown that mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence, and international security have always been strengthened when states have allowed themselves to be guided by respect for equality and equal security.

Mr President, the Madrid meeting could not be made to fail because those who were interested in its success felt the express support of people of the most varying opinions in the European countries.

This is what makes us optimistic that international events can be positively transformed. The Stockholm conference can contribute to this. The more international opinion forces realistic action, the more successful it will be. For no one, no one, who has observed closely the intensity and effort expended to station the missiles can seriously believe that there would be voluntary readiness to ever again withdraw these missiles, through which it is hoped to gain military advantage.

It remains the primary aim of GDR foreign and security policy to contribute to the prevention of a nuclear inferno and the securing of world peace. This corresponds to the fundamental -- and thus constant -- course of socialist peace policy, which the GDR has supported since its foundation 35 years ago.

Collective security in Europe on the basis of a continent free from nuclear weapons, an ever decreasing military potential, on the basis of the political-territorial realities -- this is a worthwhile aim.

It corresponds to the historical and humanistic responsibility of the GDR to do everything, also as a German state, so that war will never again start from German soil.

I summarize the proposals which in the view of the GDR are most pressing:

--the renunciation, binding in international law, of the first use of nuclear weapons by those nuclear powers who still have not entered into such an obligation;

--the renunciation by treaty of the use of military force and the preservation of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states, with the inclusion of the interested neutral and nonaligned states;

--the freezing of nuclear weapon arsenals;

--the creation of nuclear-free zones or corridors in various parts of Europe;

--the freeing of Europe from chemical weapons;

--the freezing and reduction of the military budgets of all the participating states;

--the expansion and extension of confidence-building measures, as contained in the Helsinki Final Act, with the aim of reducing the military activities of states and reducing the danger of surprise attack.

These are by no means all our ideas. And we are obviously prepared to examine all ideas and proposals by other participating states which would serve to de-escalate the current escalating situation, to build confidence, and to increase security.

The socialist German state will be, as always and everywhere, a dependable partner in Stockholm. I thank you for your attention.

CSSR Foreign Minister's Speech

LD172109 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1700 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Bohuslav Chnoupek, Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs, spoke in Stockholm today at the conference on measures for strengthening confidence and security and disarmament in Europe. In the introduction he thanked the Swedish Government for the effort and care spent on creating dignified conditions for this important international forum. He said that the Stockholm conference would go down in history as a natural continuation of the process opened 10 years ago by the Helsinki CSCE conference, at which all made a promise to support the relations between themselves and secure conditions in which our people can live in real and permanent peace safe from danger and from intrigues against their safety.

The Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs said further that in the past the implementation of this idea was not without complications. Those who remember Helsinki know that even then illusions that everything would continue smoothly were inappropriate. Really: Opponents of detente heaped enough obstacles, snares, and pits in its path.

However, the Madrid meeting arrived at a wise conclusion to convene this confernece. It showed how deep the roots of political realism were, how great the feeling of responsibility in people who care for the further destiny of the world is, and how attractive the policy of detente still is. In the nuclear era this is the only sensible alternative, and it found enough strength in itself to withstand its opponents' attacks. Detente offers its reserves.

We expect the Stockholm conference to become an important contribution in transferring the process of detente to the military area. We have a clear mandate for this: It is contained in the final document of the Madrid meeting. It sets us the task of taking new effective steps towards strengthening trust and security and towards disarmament. As for us, said minister Chnoupek, we came to the capital of Sweden determined to make a maximum contribution to the constructive course and positive results of these deliberations, aiming to concentrate on vitally important problems without wasting energy on insubstantial matters. In this we see one of the paths towards making the tense international political climate healthier so that, as Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak said in his New Year speech, humanity can attain a better fate than to live in a world tossed about by conflicts and under the threat of nuclear weapons.

Our common task is made more difficult by the fact that we are meeting in an exceptionally complicated international situation. As a consequence of the beginning of the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe it has become so much worse that it is quite justifiably considered the worst in the post-war era.

Imperialism's increasing aggressiveness is manifesting itself not only in Europe but also in other areas of the world, especially in the Near East -- particularly Lebanon -- in the south of Africa, and in Central America -- as the military invasion of Grenada has fully shown.

Minister Chnoupek said that imperialist circles, above all the United States, are launching a new dangerous round of armament. The Geneva talks on nuclear weapons were thwarted because of them. They got the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of the armed forces and armament in central Europe into a blind alley. All this happened because they systematically rejected peace proposals by the USSR and the socialist countries because they wanted to push through their own intentions for gaining military superiority. The idea that the newly-installed nuclear weapons could become an argument in disarmament talks is an untenable and faulty self-deceit. U.S. attempts to act in this manner lead only to one result: blocking talks and sharpening tension.

The same is true about the effort to pretend that with the deployment of the Pershings nothing much has happened. Do the governments of the countries where the new U.S. missiles are being deployed not understand this? Is it possible to claim to people who are alarmed by this development that the new U.S. missiles have not harmed the relations between the East and West, that they do not jeopardize European security? Are they not contradicting the spirit of the treaties concluded between the FRG and the socialist countries? Is it possible to appeal to the USSR to renew the Geneva talks without taking into consideration that the deployment of U.S. missiles which entails the violation of military-strategic balance, has already begun? Is it possible to spread the illusion that the Stockholm conference and the bilateral contacts that will take place during this meeting could substitute for Soviet-U.S. deliberations about nuclear armament or to use [words indistinct] rhetoric to mask the real basis of the policy of imperialist aggression?

As regards a genuine return to the debating table, we support the Soviet stance, which was expressed by its highest representative, Yuriy Andropov, on 24 November 1983. That stance is a clear one: If the United States and other countries of NATO are willing to go back to the state that existed prior to the start of the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union is willing to do the same.

Minister Chnoupek went on to say that we in Czechoslovakia cannot remain indifferent to this situation. The more so since we directly face the increased nuclear missile danger to our country on our immediate western frontier.

The danger comes from a direction to which we are justly particularly sensitive on the basis of our historical experiences. We shall never allow the repetition of Munich and its consequences. Really, we are not naive. For this reason we have adopted the necessary defense measures in this qualitatively completely new military-strategic situation: We have started preparatory work to develop operational tactical complexes for missiles that have a range sufficient to reach the majority of locations where new U.S. missiles are now being deployed in West European countries, thus neutralizing the superiority that would be attained as a result of the Pershings' short flying time.

In doing this Czechoslovakia, just like our allies in the Warsaw Treaty, has never -- either in the past or now -- identified itself with the concept of the balance of fear and armed peace based on ever larger stocks of nuclear weapons. Such an approach in our epoch would amount to an insult to common sense, particularly if we take into consideration -- as was stated in the recently approved UN resolution condemning nuclear war -- that such a war could lead to the destruction of civilization on earth. Indeed, in the nuclear age the notion that battles end with the victory of one of the fighting sides does not apply.

The Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs went on to emphasize that, consequently, it would be a waste of time to ponder what sort of steps to take in order to win a war. On the contrary, it is necessary to seek the means for ways to prevent an armed conflict in a timely and effective manner.

The Czechoslovak stance on these cardinal questions of our time is absolutely clear. It is embodied in our permanent devotion to the policy of preserving peace, eliminating the danger of war, strengthening international security, reducing tension, and broadening mutually benefitial cooperation. Our contacts with the majority of CSCE member-countries develop within this framework, on the principles of a policy of peaceful cooperation between states with different social systems.

Stances on such vitally important questions as the halting of the feverish arms buildup -- particularly nuclear -- and transition to disarmament; strengthening the principles of respecting national independence and sovereignty; the inviolability of frontiers; noninterference in internal affairs; the nonuse of force or the threat of force; equality; the right of nations to decide their own destiny; and other generally recognized principles in relations between states are equally consistent.

Minister Chnoupek recalled that we determinedly confirmed this in the course of all recent important international events. This was also confirmed by the proposals included in the January 1983 Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty states, particularly the proposal for a treaty on mutual nonuse of military force and preservation of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Treaty and the NATO states. Czechoslovakia, which was enjoined to disseminate this document, passed it on to 134 governments of UN member-states. The document was received with interest and, in a number of countries, with a broad response, although the governments of the NATO states have not yet replied to it.

Minister Chnoupek expressed the conviction that the very fact of the commencement of negotiations concerning such a treaty precisely in this time of existing tension in the international situation would amount to an indisputable expression of the good will of states in seeking a way to avert the danger of war, revitalize the policy of detente, and preserve peace. This very proposal further concretized and developed the generally valid ban on the nonuse of force and the threat of force, which is included in the UN Charter. Likewise, it embodies our conference's very mandate enshrining the duty of states to avoid the use of force or the threat of force in mutual relations.

The core of such a treaty could be in an undertaking by the Warsaw Pact states and the states not to be the first to use nuclear or conventional weapons against each other or third states. This would be completed through concrete obligations of the states of both groupings aimed at averting the danger of a sudden attack and strengthening mutual trust and through negotiations on limiting the arms buildup and on disarmament on the basis of equality and equal security. However, the draft treaty could go much further still, for it not only includes a binding obligation to avoid the first use of military force, but also requires active cooperation in the most important spheres of strengthening international security and the dutv to deepen peaceful relations. In this respect in particular its adoption would be an important contribution to realizing th Helsinki agreements. The treaty would also be open to other states, not only European ones.

Another very important step toward protecting the continent against nuclear catastrophe would be an undertaking by the nuclear great powers not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. The achievement of this goal would be helped by setting up nuclear weapons-free zones or corridors. For the densely populated European continent it is, of course, very important to eliminate chemical weapons. A step toward this goal could be made through gradually setting up chemical weapons-free zones, as envisaged in the Warsaw Treaty member-states' latest significant proposal addressed to the NATO states in January 1984.

Minister Chnoupek underlined that it could be said with total certainty that all measures of this sort are important from the military point of view, and, in that respect, fully reflect the conference's mandate. It is, however, obvious that the deliberations, especially about these issues, require a corresponding will to attain agreement.

In conclusion Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Bohuslav Chnoupek expressed a conviction that it is in the hands of the participants to lead the conference to the results that the European nations justifiably expect. This, however, requires the same measure of responsibility by all its participants. He said that the Czechoslovak delegation will do its utmost to fulfill the mandate given to the Stockholm conference by the Madrid meeting. Our political course is unchanging. The initiatives we will put forward in its spirit are based on the same political denominator. It is a consistent orientation toward peace, security, and cooperation among nations of Europe and the whole world, said Bohuslav Chnoupek in his speech at the conference on measures toward strengthening trust and security and on disarmament in Europe, which opened in Stockholm today.

Romanian Commentary

AU171116 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0945 GMT 17 Jan 84

["An Important Event in International Political Life" -- AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES. 17/1/1984 -- An editorial printed in SCINTEIA on the opening day of the Stockholm conference on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe reads:

The conference on confidence- and security-buildng measures and disarmament in Europe is a highly significant political event which focuses the attention and interest of all the peoples on the continent, of world public opinion. The representatives of the European states, of the USA and Canada, meet to debate and adopt tangible measures concerning such problems of major significance as confidence-building, military disengagement and the achievement of a passage to disarmament on the continent as a whole.

Socialist Romania, one of the sponsors of the conference, attaches great importance to its proceedings. President Nicolae Ceausescu paid particular attention to this all-European forum, to the definition of its aims and goals, to the elaboration of the guidelines for Romania's participation in the conference, to the formulation of a package of realistic, constructive and efficient proposals allowing the proceedings to meet the expectations of the European peoples and of the whole world and achieve progress towards a new course of confidence, detente and collaboration in the international life.

The proceedings of the conference in Stockholm open in conditions in which the world climate has seriously deteriorated. Under these serious circumstances, Romania considers it to be of utmost importance and in accordance with all peoples' interests that the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Europe should be stopped and that the application of the countermeasures announced by the USSR should be prevented. That would contribute to the lessening of tension and confrontation and would provide conditions for the resumption of negotiations -- the only way to solve the problem of missiles in Europe, to remove the nuclear threat in general. Even if such serious and complex questions will not be solved at the Stockholm conference, it is beyond doubt that through its very targets, the conference is able and dutybound to pave the way for generally acceptable solutions.

The Stockholm conference cannot be contemplated outside of the complex of these problems. On the contrary, it can be said that, especially under the current circumstances, the conference ought to be seen as part and parcel of the stringent problems of the present time and it cannot ignore or evade them. That is why the conference should promote the efforts made in this direction, providing conditions for the collaboration of the representatives of the 35 participating states. The results of the Madrid meeting, among which the consensus for the convening of the Stockholm conference, prove that, no matter how complex or difficult international conditions may be, there is no question which cannot be settled by means of negotiations, when political reason, a constructive spirit and a wish for cooperation prevail, when the major interests of peoples are taken into account.

Or, a basic target of the Stockholm conference is precisely to promote confidence, eliminate distrust and help the attending states to get closer and understand each other better. Under the current circumstances in particular, when distrust mounts in interstate relations any progress in lessening distrust, in diminishing confrontation will be hailed by peoples as a contribution to the assertion of peace, security and detente in Europe and throughout the world.

The major requirement, the basic condition of the establishment of a lasting peace and security in Europe reside in the adoption of specific disarmament measures, nuclear disarmament measures, first of all. This is the outstanding question of the continent and of the entire international life which cannot be ignored at the Stockholm conference. As a matter of fact, the fundamental target of the conference, which appears in its very title, is precisely to strengthen confidence-building and security measures through disarmament measures. Interstate confidence cannot develop in the shadow of nuclear missiles, each newly emplaced missile heightens distrust and animosity, helps the absurd escalation of the course toward abyss. It is only through disarmament that true confidence can be built, which will provide for an advancement towards the attainment of the peoples' great desiderata -- the definitive removal of the nuclear threat and the building of lasting security of the continent.

The conference in Stockholm provides favorable conditions for an important step to be taken along this line. The fact that all the states signatory to the Helsinki Final Act will sit at the negotiating table is an important prerequisite in this respect, the fact being incontestable that all the European states are vitally interested to halt the mounting of tension on the continent.

The escalation of the nuclear arms race immeasurably enhances the dangers posed to all states and peoples in Europe that are equally interested in the removal of these dangers. That is why, they do have the right -- and the duty -- to have their say and work to overcome the current state of extreme tension.

The fact is noteworthy that the conference is attended by the foreign ministers of the states, which is relevant for the attention paid to this event, thus possibilities being provided for multiple contacts and talks, which are all the more important as international dialogue, that on disarmament-related questions more particularly, has lost scope and has been often interrupted of late, being virtually at deadlock at present.

The seriousness of the existing situation requires that the framework provided by the Stockholm conference should be used to the full for a laborious, constructive activity, a sense of high responsibility being shown and the interests of the European peoples, of peace and security in Europe and the world over being placed above all. What the peoples expect is that working spirit, receptivity to and respect for the viewpoints and stances set forth, as well as political negotiating will, without intransigencies, conditioning and rigidity, be shown, that the wish for similar points of view and for generally acceptable solutions should prevail, that sterile discussions and the transformation of the conference into a stage of confrontation, accusation and incrimination should be avoided. The conference in Stockholm opens under complex circumstances. Therefore, action is needed not to maintain or enhance tension but to lessen it.

Deeply attached to the cause of European security, Socialist Romania reiterated, through the voice of President Nicolae Ceausescu, her determination to make her full contribution to the building up of confidence among European countries, to the adoption of tangible measures apt to lessen tension and pave the way to the building of a Europe of peace, detente and collaboration.

In this respect, the Stockholm conference is a change which might prove decisive, which defines the great responsibility incumbent on the participating states and highlights the need for efforts to promote the cause of peace and security on the continent.

Bulgarian Commentary

AU171252 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 16 Jan 84 pp 1, 6

[Rosen Konstantinov article: "Opportunities For a Change in the International Atmosphere"]

[Text] The conference on confidence-building and security-building measures and on disarmament in Europe opens in Stockholm tomorrow. The convening of this forum is one of the most remarkable, positive results of the Madrid meeting, since its task is directly linked to the settlement of the most urgent question of our time -- how to avert the danger of a nuclear disaster and to preserve peace in Europe, as well as throughout the world.

The socialist countries have always been the ones to take the initiative on disarmament and international security questions. The Stockholm conference is also an initiative of theirs. The idea of military detente, launched by the USSR immediately following the signing of the final Helsinki document, is laid down at the basis of this initiative. Later on, the Warsaw Pact Treaty Organization member-states further developed this idea and conceived a specific proposal, which was submitted to discussion at the Madrid meeting in 1980.

During the negotiations, which lasted nearly 3 years, the socialist countries conducted an energetic struggle for the implementation of their proposal and firmly opposed the mercenary approach of certain Western states, which were ready to sell their consent as if peace and security were some kind of negotiable commodities, and not a common benefit for all peoples. The socialist countries had to overcome the strong resistance of the United States -- the chief opponent of this idea -- in whose policy there was no place for questions of military detente. Nevertheless, the United States was forced to give up its resistance in the end. The common awareness of the common interest in holding such a forum prevailed, and a decision was adopted to convene such a conference.

According to the Madrid document, the first stage of the conference is expected to take place in Stockholm, and the task of this stage will be to discuss and agree upon confidence-and security-building measures. The second stage of the conference will be held later, after the respective extension of its mandate has been achieved. The second stage of the conference will deal with the question of disarmament in Europe, namely with the reduction of troops and armaments.

The Stockholm conference is opening in an atmosphere of dangerously aggravated tension, for which the Washington militarists and their closest NATO allies are responsible. The deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe is intensifying the general lack of confidence because it represents an attempt to disrupt the existing strategic balance on our continent and because it undermines the only possible basis for negotiations on questions of military detente and disarmament. The irresponsible action is in contradiction to one of the most important tasks of the conference, namely to avert the danger of a sudden attack (since the new American missiles are weapons intended for a nuclear first strike). Naturally, this cannot fail to exert a negative effect upon the work of the conference, since the opportunities of working out and agreeing upon confidence-and security-building measures are diminishing under the circumstances of an increased international tension and in an atmosphere of distrust.

Under the present circumstances the question of the meaning, scope, and character of the confidence-building measures is assuming an even greater importance. The measures must be equal to the high level of danger and insecurity stemming from the present situation. Confidence and security are a matter affecting the most sensitive spheres of interest of each individual state -- namely its national defense. The consolidation of confidence building must develop under the strict observance of the principle of equal rights and obligations and equal security. Any attempt to obtain one-sided military advantages at the expense of other countries' security will lead to failure. The experience of the Madrid negotiations in working out the mandate of the conference and a number of recent official statements made us believe that the NATO member-countries are trying to obtain such advantages. They are trying to restrict the territorial scope of confidence-building measures to continental Europe alone and to exclude the maritime and oceanic areas and air space from the range of their application, territories where the U.S. and NATO naval and air forces are carrying out intense military activities, which justifiably cause concern about peace and security in Europe.

The confidence-and security-building measures can be reduced to a mere exchange of information on troop movements and to similar steps of a military-technical character. The thesis about the "open character" and "transparency" of the countries' military activities with which the NATO people are widely speculating is based upon the false assertions and intentional lies about the socialist countries allegedly "manifesting an unjustifiable trend" toward secrecy in military matters and about the alleged existence of "a Soviet military superiority."

As a matter of fact, the purpose of all this is to justify the intensification of the U.S. and NATO arms buildup and their attempt to coordinate two incompatible facts -- namely the measures for building confidence with a constant increase in the armaments race.

The Madrid document itself has determined the basic criterion for the character and essence of confidence and security-building measures, which is the task of the Stockholm conference -- namely to reduce the danger of a military confrontation in Europe. This enables the Stockholm conference to engage in even wider discussions about the elaboration and adoption of essential military-technical, military-political, and legal-contractual measures, as well as other effective steps likely to truly disperse the increasing concern and alarm, to build up an atmosphere of confidence, as well as to contribute to the achievement of progress in the struggle for the limitation of the arms and armaments race.

As A.A. Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR minister of foreign affairs, eloquently expressed himself, the confidence and security-building measures "are in the air, they beg to be placed on the agenda of the conference." The socialist Warsaw Pact Organization member-states have adopted a large scale program on the consolidation of peace and security which encompasses proposals pertaining to all aspects of military detente, including confidence-building measures. This program is contained in their joint documents, and in particular in the Prague declaration of the Warsaw Pact Organization members adopted in Janaury 1983 and in the communique issued by the ministers of foreign affairs of Warsaw Pact Organization mebmer-countries at their conferences in Berlin (1979) and in Sofia (1983). This program represents a rich source of ideas which can successfully serve the goals and tasks of the Stockholm conference.

Socialist countries' initiatives such as the proposal on signing a treaty for the non-use of military force and for maintaining peaceful relations among Warsaw Pact and NATO states, the proposal on restricting membership of military blocs, and on the non-expansion of their activities in new geographical areas, the proposal on renouncing first use of nuclear arms, the proposal on the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various European areas, including the Balkans, and so forth -- all these initiatives are acquiring particular meaning and importance today.

The Stockholm conference opens future prospects for a consolidation of the international atmosphere, for a drastic change from arms race to military detente and disarmament.

The fact that this conference is the only forum within the framework of the all-European process aimed at a continuation of the East-West dialogue on to the questions of peace and security on our continent even more intensifies its role and increases its importance. Along with this the demands regarding the approach of participating countries are becoming more strict. This is so because the success of the conference will depend upon the real contribution made by each participating country, upon those countries' good will and sense of responsibility for the fate of peace in Europe and in the world.

As the communique adopted at the session of the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Committee in 1983 points out, the Stockholm conference is called upon to become an important factor for the reduction of tension on the Euopean continent, and the socialist countries are ready to contribute to its success.

WARSAW PACT CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN OFFER ENDORSED

AU171313 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 12 Jan 84 p 7

[J. Moszczenski commentary: "An Act of Good Will"]

[Text] The socialist countries have put forward an important new initiative designed to free Europe from chemical weapons. The appropriate documents -- a so-called aide-memoire with an enclosed concrete proposal -- have been presented by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the member-states of the Warsaw Pact to the ambassadors of the NATO member-states in Moscow.

There is no doubt that the removal of this terrible mass-destruction weapon from our continent would greatly reduce the risk of chemical war in Europe and the world. The commencement of the reduction of chemical weapons would be an important step toward security and toward diminishing the threat of war, and would enhance mutual turst, helping to heal the international situation at the same time. For this reason, the Warsaw Pact member-states have proposed to the NATO member-states meetings of representatives in 1984 with a preliminary exchange of views on this subject. There is no doubt that the implementation of partial steps on a regional scale would help the efforts that the Geneva Disarmament committee is making on a world scale and would speed up the signing of an international convention completely banning chemical weapons.

The socialist countries' latest initiative is the logical outcome of the decisions contained in the Prague declaration of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee issued in January 1983 and in the records of the socialist foreign ministers' conferences held in April 1983 in Prague and in October 1983 in Sofia. The initiative also confirms the socialist countries' implementation of their disarmament program. The socialist countries' proposals are marked by great flexibility. They permit the gradual implementation of the decisions made, they are not encumbered with technical details, they take control requirements into account, they foresee guarantees for countries where there are no chemical weapons, and they also define the steps that must be taken in order to create a future forum of discussion on this topic.

As a result of the development of the chemcial weapons and of the accumulation of great numbers of the them by the U.S. Armed Forces, mainly on FRG soil, the people of our densely populated continent are confronted with a particular danger. The above fact stresses the supreme justification and full purposefulness of our countries' new initiative.

First opinions indicate that the socialist countries' proposal has been accepted postively and with understanding by European society. Western commentators admit that it is an expression of positive activity. Nevertheless they are trying to sow skepticism by saying that the socialist countries' initiative has interrupted the work of the Geneva Disarmament Committee. In fact it is exactly the opposite. Any partial regional solutions whatsoever facilitate the working out of an international convention banning chemical weapons. The Disarmament Committee has been laboring over such a convention for many years, supported by the great and resourceful contributions by the USSR and the other socialist countries, especially Poland.

The socialist countries' latest proposals confirm the truth that despite the difficult international situation, our countries are displaying initiative aimed at improving world relations. Several days before the opening of the Stockholm conference on confidence-and security-building measures and disarmament, an important and sincere act of good will has been committed in Moscow on behalf of all the European countries of the socialist community.

SRV TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES, TALKS HELD

AU162045 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] A government trade delegation of the SRV, headed by Foreign Trade Minister Le Khac, arrived in our country today. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Trade Minister Shane Korbeci; Andon Berxholli, director of a directorate of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and others. Also present were Hoang Quoc Tinh, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plentipotentiary to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, and other functionaries of the embassy.

Talks also began today between Foreign Trade Minister Shane Korbeci, leader of the government trade delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, and Foreign Trade Minister Le Khac, leader of the SRV Government trade delegation. Opinions were exchanged on the further development of trade relations between the two countries during 1984. The talks were held in a friendly and warm atmosphere.

Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci gave a dinner tonight at the Hotel Dajti in honor of the SRV Government trade delegation. Taking part were Minister of Communications Luan Babameto, Deputy Foreign Minister Sokrat Plaka, and others. Also taking part was Hoang Quoc Tinh, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plentipotentiary to our country.

1984 Protocol Signed

AU172133 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A protocol for goods exchanges and payments for 1984 was signed in Tirana today between the governments of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the SRV. For the Albanian side the protocol was signed by Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci, and for the Vietnamese side by Minister of Foreign Trade Le Khac. Taking part in the signing ceremony were Luan Babameto, minister of communications; Sokrat Plaka, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and members of both delegations. Also present was Hoang Quoc Tinh, ambassador extraordinary and plentipotentiary of the SRV to our country.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania will export to Vietnam copper wires, textiles, pyrite ore and concentrate, and other things. It will import coffee, rubber, oil, peanuts, rice, and other things.

PAPER REVIEWS STUDY OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

AU171210 Tirana ZERI I RINISE in Albanian 11 Jan 84 p 3

[Ermira Skenderi and Piro Dishnica review of study of demographic trends: A Forecast of the Future Demographic Development in Our Country"]

[Excerpts] The problems of the reproduction of the population have always been carefully dealt with and resolved by the party in accordance with the conditions and the factors of the country's socioeconomic development and the creation of new conditions. The present stage of development and prospects of demographic development require that the population grows at a relatively rapid and stable rate. The study, therefore, concentrates on some problems of demographic development, its mechanical movement, labor resources, and socioeconomic aspects of these processes for the next 20 years, for the country as a whole, both rural and urban areas, and regarding gender and age groups.

During the time of people's power the population has doubled in about 25 years, whereas before liberation it took about 50 years to double.

The population will continue to grow at a rapid and stable rate over the next 20 years. This is a progressive development of our country's natural population growth and is contrary to what is happening in the capitalist and revisionist countries. It is a fact that during the 1950-80 period the average growth rate of the population in our country was 1.4 higher than that in the world, 3.4 times higher than in Western Europe, 3.6 times higher than in Bulgaria, 5.5 times higher than in Hungary, 3.9 times higher than in Yugoslavia, 4.6 times higher than in Greece, and 3.7 times higher than in Italy.

The population forecast for the years 1985-2000 was carried out in a number of variants, taking into consideration the main directions of the country's socioeconomic development and new factors that will operate in the future.

Analyzing the development of the population in the districts in the coming years, some important conclusions have been reached: In the country's northern areas, a considerable population increase is expected as a result of the high growth rate. In six districts in this area by the year 2000 population is expected to be 1.6 times higher than in 1982, which also calls for the increase in labor resources at a rapid pace.

In the districts with a high intensification of agriculture [in the plains] the population in the year 2000 will be 1.5 times larger than it is at present. This guarantees that this area's future manpower needs will be fully met, raising also a number of other problems pertaining to the development of nonagricultural branches, the mechanical movement of the population, and so forth.

One of the characteristics of the natural population growth in our country is the rising proportion of births. The ratio between births and deaths has constantly increased in favor of births, and will continue to do so in the future. In 1938 the ratio was 1:1.9, while in the fifties it changed to 1:3.3, in the late seventies it changed to 1:4.1, and by the year 2000 it is expected to be 1:4.7. This is based on the high number of births and the constant decline in the number of deaths as a result of various economic, political, ideological, social, and demographic factors. Compared with the forties, the proportion of the number of deaths is now 2.5 times lower, and in the year 2000 is expected to be 3 times lower.

According to the study, it is expected that by the year 2000 the active population will be 1.5 times larger than in 1982.

BRIEFS

NEW FERTILIZER PLANT -- The continuous intensification of agriculture in our country has led the increase of the demands for superphosphate. Therefore, alongside the existing plant in Lac, Kruje District, a new factory of superphosphate is under construction completely self-reliantly. Its designing capacity is 50 per cent larger than the existing plant. Hence, the production of superphosphate will double. The project forecasts that with partial changes, the double superphosphate, superphosphate with double active substance, be produced in the future. The new factory will have a higher technological level and more automatic apparatuses. Besides these, the project envisages a more effective use of the local phosphate ore. [Excerpt] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 14 Jan 84 AU]

TREATY, COOPERATION WITH ROMANIA LAUDED

AU171030 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 15 Jan 84 p 3

[Stamen Stamov article: "Economic Dimensions of Cooperation"]

[Text] Bucharest, 14 Jan (ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME correspondent) -- The large building sites erected on both banks of the Danube are bustling with people and machines. The accelerated pace of long-term, future-oriented development is being felt. These new dimensions eloquently show the increased economic opportunities in both Bulgaria and Romania, the fruits of the skill and efforts of construction and factory workers. When in 1975 the idea of joint heavy machine-building industry development in Ruse and Giurgiu emerged, hardly anyone could have imagined the present elan and scope of this initiative.

Wheel digging machines for open cast mines, manipulating machines for loading and unloading heavy trucks and long freight trains, geological prospecting equipment, fixed and mobile conveyor belts for the production of inert [inertni] materials, as well as a wide range of diesel motors for vessels -- all these are only part of the products that the heavy machine building plant in Ruse and its "sister enterprise" in Giurgiu will produce through the production-sharing method and specialization. A wide expansion of joint research work and infrastructural production in cooperation with the municipalities is also planned.

No less important is cooperation in the basic reorganization of a number of large Romanian thermoelectric power stations, where Bulgarian equipment and technologies have been introduced for the use of low-calorie coal. It is worth noting that this reorganization is at the basis of the efforts for perfecting the production structure of the entire Romanian national economy. By the end of the present 5-year plan period the energy and metallurgical industry sectors will be totally reorganized on the basis of low grade sources of energy, and the valuable raw materials, such as oil, natural gas, and high grade coal will be used for the development and expansion of chemical production.

The electronics industry also offers vast opportunities for cooperation, and in this sector the Romanian side hopes to use the experience of Bulgarian experts in the development of robotics for the implementation of its programs on the comprehensive mechanization and automation of production processes demanding highly paid, heavy manual labor.

The specific measures for production sharing in timber processing, the cellulose-paper, and furniture industry for the 1983-85 period is of great interest. Mutual deliveries have already been agreed upon for machines and equipment in this field, while from the beginning of this year direct cooperation between Bulgarian and Romanian timber processing factories will begin.

The activities of the joint Bulgarian-Romanian "Danube" enterprise deserves attention. It opened the path toward useful cooperation in third-country markets.

The 36 years since the signing of the first friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance treaty between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Socialist Republic of Romania actually confirmed Georgi Dimitrov's words at a Bulgarian-Romanian friendship rally on 16 January 1948, that this document has opened a bright, new page in the history of mutual relations between our two countries. After the renewal of the treaty in 1970 the dimensions of Bulgarian-Romanian cooperation became even more impressive, and they have considerably increased in variety and scope.

The ensuing period demonstrated an exceptionally dynamic development of bilateral relations as a whole. In this respect we must point out the regular meetings and talks between comrades Todor Zhivkov and Nicolae Ceausescu as being particularly important. They are opening up ever-expanding prospects for our mutual cooperation.

All this is reflected in the dynamic development of trade between our two countries, which for several consecutive 5-year-plan periods has been doubling, while in the 1981-85 period it exceeded R3 billion. The fact that half of the mutual deliveries are of a durable character and are the result of established production sharing and specialization, is of even greater importance. Nearly 50 agreements have been signed, and they determine the close cooperation in basic and decisive structural national economic branches of our two socialist neighboring states.

YOTOV GREETS COMMUNIST CONGRESS IN VIENNA

AU161812 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 15 Jan 84 p 4

[Greetings address of the BCP Central Committee to the 25th Congress of the Austrian Communist Party, read by Yordan Yotov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member, on 14 January in Vienna]

[Text] Dearest comrades, let me first of all convey most sincere greetings to the delegates of the 25th Congress of the Austrian Communist Party [KPOe], on behalf of the BCP Central Committee secretary general, personally. I take the liberty to convey to you most sincere wishes for the successful and fruitful work of your congress as well.

The Bulgarian Communists and all Bulgarian people are well acquainted with and highly appreciate the consistent work of the KPOe in defending and protecting the democratic rights of the workers class and of all working people, in protecting their freedom and vital interests, as well as the indefatigable efforts of your party in rallying the progressive forces in Austria for the sake of democratic innovation of Austrian society, for the sake of peace and socialism.

The BCP Central Committee delegation listened with great interest and attention to the profoundly meaningful accountability report read by Comrade Franz Muhri, which contains a thorough Marxist-Leninist analysis of the domestic political situation in Austria and of the contemporary international situation, mapping out the future tasks of the KPOe.

Your congress is being held under the circumstances of exceptionally aggravated international tension, stemming from the militarist policy of the most aggressive and most reactionary circles of imperialism in the United States and other NATO member-countries, who have launched the "crusade" against socialism, against the revolutionary national liberation movements, as well as against all democratic and peace-loving forces. This policy of confrontation and of an arms race which is unprecedented in its scope -- an expression of the adventurous aspirations of imperialism and reaction striving toward worldwide military superiority and political hegemony -- is most unmistakably and dangerously expressed in the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles on the territories of a number of West European countries.

With such actions the United States and NATO have undermined the very foundations of the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear weapons held in Geneva and have provoked the respective, reciprocal countermeasures on the part of the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact member-countries.

The Bulgarian Communists and all Bulgarians fully support Yuriy Andropov's 24 November 1983 declaration, which with particular clarity and convincing strength once more sets forth the stand of the USSR and of the other socialist countries, as well as the decisions adopted by the Soviet leadership in protecting the security of the socialist community, as well as peace in Europe and throughout the world.

Comrades, thanks to the correct policy of the BCP, thanks to the Bulgarian people's selfless efforts, regardless of the complicated international situation and the difficulties emanating from it, the plans mapped out by the 12th BCP Congress on the further construction of a developed socialist society in our country are being successfully implemented. At stable rates one of the most accelerated rates in the world, as a matter of fact, social labor productivity and national income in our country are increasing. On this basis the material, social, and intellectual needs of our population are being better satisfied, and Bulgarian science, culture, and education are developing along ascending lines. All achievements in Bulgaria's socialist construction, in our opinion, cannot be separated from the comprehensive development of the socialist community as a whole and from our unity of action with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal, socialist countries.

As for the international scene, socialist Bulgaria is conducting a consistent policy of peace and mutual cooperation in Europe and the world, devoting particular care to the establishment of lasting relations of good neighborliness and understanding in the Balkans, to the transformation of our peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

The BCP, loyal to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, is unrelentingly working to rally the international communist and workers movement as well as for solidarity and support to all revolutionary and progressive forces. In once more reassuring you of our unflinching, comradely solidarity, we express our confidence that the relations between the BCP and the KPOe will also continue in the future to develop and expand on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, for the sake of our joint struggle for peace, in the interest of both the Bulgarian and Austrian peoples, in the interest of our common communist cause.

Long live the KPOe?

Long live the friendship between the BCP and the KPOe, between the Bulgarian and Austrian peoples!

May the cause of peace and communism live forever!

FILIPOV LEADS DELEGATION ON VISIT TO SRV

For Hanoi VNA and radio coverage of the visit of the Bulgarian Government delegation led by Grisha Filipov, BCP Politburo candidate member and chairman of the Council of Ministers, see the Vietnam section of the 18 January Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BCP DAILY REBUTS FRG PAPER ON FOREIGN POLICY

AU131438 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 12 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Professor Deyan Pavlov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO commentator: "Salvation Through...Self-Delusion"]

[Text] The well-known West German daily FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG recently carried an article entitled "Bulgaria Sticks to the Advantages of Detente Policy." The article points out an important truth about our country's consistent, peace loving foreign policy, about its loyalty to the goals of detente in Europe and in the world. The Frankfurt daily tells the truth in noting that Bulgaria obviously does not want the advantages of detente to be "erased by a new period of political frost."

Up to this point everything said in the article is in accordance with the truth and serves to benefit objective information on questions of exceptional importance.

Nevertheless, the remainder of the article is conceived in the spirit of that "differentiated approach" to the socialist states, aimed at casting a shadow upon their unity, as has been adopted by the United States and NATO and as was proclaimed by U.S. Vice President Bush in Vienna in September 1983. The West German daily makes a ridiculous "discovery" -- namely that "by a number of signals in recent times [preceding two words appear in boldface], Bulgaria has made it clear that it is interested in further pursuing its good relations with the Western countries." This expression about "recently given signals" is an example of that typical mixture of truth and lies that makes up the formula of subversive ideological diversion. Is it really only "recently" that Bulgaria has declared its desire to further pursue constructive relations with Western states and all other countries, provided they respect the People's Republic of Bulgaria and its interests as a socialist country, as a member of the Warsaw Pact, as a CEMA member-country, and as an active champion of peace and detente against American nuclear missile adventurism? Throughout the nearly 40 years of its existence our new Bulgaria has conducted and is still pursuing a policy of understanding and cooperation, and the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG should be aware of this fact. The newspaper's editorial board however, prefers to follow the approach of its colleagues from across the Channel, the editors of the British periodical FORTNIGHTLY, which has been expressed with cynical frankness in the following words: "The truth will never be useful to us in the West. Our salvation lies in self-delusions, in deceptions, and in an irrevocable hypocrisy."

The Frankfurt daily has acted in the spirit of this formula precisely in trying to describe the proposals submitted by the People's Republic of Bulgaria on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans as something isolated from the general line of the socialist countries. Any reasonably well-informed person, however, knows that together with our Warsaw Pact allies; we are waging a joint struggle for detente and security, and that our actions are agreed upon and well-coordinated in the interest of peace throughout the world. In the communique adopted at the Moscow conference of the fraternal parties' central committee secretaries from socialist countries and published on 10 December 1983, it was once more confirmed that the participants in the meeting have "agreed to adopt additional measures for the purpose of briefing various circles of the worldwide public on the specific and long-term proposals submitted by the Soviet Union and by the other socialist states, proposals aimed at the removal or drastic limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe, as well as at banning other weapons on the basis of equal rights and equal security..."

This is the truth about our unanimous and common stand, which the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG cannot conceal even by most perfidiously mixing correct assessments with diversionist deceptions and self-delusions.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRELIMINARY RESULTS SUMMARIZED

AU162015 Sofia BTA in English 1917 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Sofia, Jan 16 (BTA) -- The Bureau of the Ministerial Council has discussed the preliminary results of the implementation of the 1983 united plan for socio-economic development of Bulgaria.

In spite of the severe weather conditions and the complicated international situation the plan has been fulfilled and the economy continues to develop intensively at stable rates. The national income has increased by about 3 per cent, and the industrial output by 4.6 per cent.

Labour efficiency, too, has risen, as has foreign trade. The country's foreign exchange balances are being further stabilized and no difficulties were allowed to occur in the payments to other countries and companies.

In the sphere of agriculture the efforts at overcoming the damages inflicted by natural disasters yielded positive results. In spite of this the negative consequences were not fully compensated.

Upon the foundations of the stable development of the national economy, the real incomes of the population have risen by about 2.8 per cent, while the average salary -- by 2.4 per cent. The home market was stocked with more goods. The retail trade has risen by 3.8 per cent. Almost 69,000 apartments have been completed, as well as many schools, children's establishments, medical and other projects with social purposes.

The Bureau of the Ministerial Council outlined measures to step up the positive trends and to overcome the weaknesses and the disadvantages in 1984 -- the decisive year of the Eighth Five-Year Period. Specially stressed was the need of general economies to be made of raw and other materials, energy and therefore of raising the efficiency of the national economy.

A regulation was adopted at the session to set up a corporation "Energetics" to conduct a united policy in the sphere of power generation.

POLL EXAMINES REASONS FOR LOW BIRTH RATE

AU131116 Sofia BTA in English 0828 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Sofia, Jan 13 (BTA) -- A sociological poll held in the county of Stara Zagora had the ambitious goal to answer the question: Why is the birth-rate level in the county one of the country's lowest?

The county of Stara Zagora has a very well developed industry -- electronic, hydraulic, chemical, mechanical engineering and robot-making, as well as a stable farm production -- above all wheat and roses. This is the very reason why the results of the poll perhaps give a true picture of the Bulgarian's thinking in general.

1247 men and women aged 18 through 40 were respondents on the poll. They rated their values of life in the following way:

29.59 per cent -- The children
26.94 per cent -- The standard
18.52 per cent -- Entertainment
15.40 per cent -- The career

Therefore, for 70 per cent of them children are not the supreme aim of human existence.

"How many children should there be in a family?"

73.30 per cent of the respondents said two, 20.21 per cent three and 2.97 per cent one. Unfortunately demographers firmly maintain that a two-children family model cannot ensure even the simple reproduction of the nation. Moreover, the respondents were much less generous in their replies when it was about their own families.

Much more moderate replies were given to the question 'how many children do you intend to raise'. 65.84 per cent of the respondents want to raise two children, 21.83 per cent one and only 7.77 per cent three children.

The reasons? They can vary -- first of all, the mothers' working employment, then inadequate living conditions, and others.

REAGAN SPEECH MEANT FOR VOTERS, LACKS CREDIBILITY

LD172133 Prague International Service in English 1630 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Yesterday U.S. President Ronald Reagan held his widely advertised TV speech, which, according to the American mass media, was to mark a divide in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. More about this in the following short comment:

Let us admit that the tone of the President's speech differed from that prevailing in the first 2 year of his stay in the White House, but let us recall that this, too, is no novelty. The President has been speaking this way since the end of last year, and his tone is becoming milder with the approaching presidential election. Although Ronald Reagan indirectly addressed himself to the Soviet Union, his speech was designed especially for the American voters.

Ronald Reagan and his advisers arrived at the conclusion that eternal saber-rattling with atomic weapons is disliked not only in Western Europe but also by Americans. They are realizing ever more that if a nuclear war should really break out the American continent would also suffer from its consequences. The tone of the President's speech has changed, the content much less, and in actual policy practically not at all.

Yesterday Ronald Reagan remarked that the United States is prepared for a realistic compromise with the Soviet Union, and that the year 1984 presents a big opportunity. He added, however, that the basis of this realistic compromise should be what he long ago called the zero option. This means in practice that the Soviet Union would withdraw all its medium-range missiles from its European territory while NATO would keep all its missiles. Is this a realistic compromise?

President Reagan forgot evidently that Europe and the world had lost a big opportunity in 1983, during the months before the deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe. They became an obstacle in negotiations. Soviet leaders have declared many times that if NATO would return to the state of affairs before the siting of new American missiles, the Soviet Union will continue to negotiate. Yesterday the American President called on the Soviet Union to negotiate further, but only about the American proposals. According to Ronald Reagan, Washington can only negotiate from a position of strength. After all, in his speech yesterday the White House chief reprimanded his predecessor for neglecting the defense of the United States. Allegedly with the support of the Congress and the American people, Mr Reagan has brought about a turn in this policy. The President fails to mention that even support of the Congress is not unequivocal, just like the support of the American people. He is aware of this, as is shown by the very change in the tone of his speech, in which he tried to calm down the American people, and at the same time disarm his Democratic opponents.

In his recent speech, one of the possible Democratic presidential candidates, Walter Mondale, said that Reagan has wasted 3 precious years by operating under an illusion that arms control leads to weakness. Yesterday Ronald Reagan outlined the areas of common interest with the Soviet Union. His words created a good impression. The first such area is the effort to remove the threat of using force in international relations. However, what about Grenada?

The second area is the reduction of arsenals. Here it suffices to give two figures. In 1982 the United States spent 199 billion on armaments, last year, 250 billion.

The third area is the improvement of mutual working relations. However, the third area is more or less conditioned by the two previous ones.

How credible then are the American President's appeals? In his speech yesterday Ronald Reagan said that America's deterrent is more credible, and is making the world a safer place. These words are no novelty at all. The world has heard many times before that more arms will make it safer. Not even repetition can put this logic right.

USSR TRADE UNIONS' SHALAYEV ARRIVES 16 JANUARY

LD161235 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1130 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] At the invitation of the Central Committee Council of Trade Unions, a delegation of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU], led by its chairman, Stepan Shalayev, CPSU Central Committee member and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived today for an official friendly visit. The Soviet delegation was met at Ruzyne Airport by Karel Hoffmann, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, and other representatives of the Central Council of Trade Unions.

Hoffmann-Shalayev Talks

LD161603 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1400 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Discussions began in Prague today between the delegation of the Central Council of Trade Unions headed by Karel Hoffmann, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, and the AUCCTU delegation led by its chairman Stepan Shalayev, CPSU Central Committee member and member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Both sides expressed confidence that the visit will contribute to the further deepening of friendship and cooperation between workers of both countries, and they emphasized the importance of further strengthening unity in the struggle for peace. Karel Hoffmann informed the Soviet delegation of the approach to implementing the resolutions of the 10th all-union congress, and he emphasized that particular importance is given to perfecting the methods and forms of all trade union work. At the same time he pointed to the plan of activity of the revolutionary trade union movement, on the basis of which primary organizations are working out their own plans of action with regard to specific conditions.

Stepan Shalayev spoke of the part played by the unions in increasing efficiency and implementing the intensive development of the national economy. He pointed to the tasks of trade unionists in implementing rationalization and innovations in production, and in organizing socialist competition. He also emphasised the importance of union organizations in resolving social questions, and improving the living and working environment. Stepan Shalayev praised highly the results to date of cooperation between Soviet and Czechoslovak unions.

Visit to Housing Complex

LD171512 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1300 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The delegation of the Central Council of Trade Unions led by Karel Hoffmann, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, and the delegation of the AUCCTU, led by its chairman, Stepan Shalayev, CPSU Central Committee member and member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, paid a visit today to the construction workers of the house of recreation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement in Prague-Dlabacov. They were accompanied by Antonin Kapek, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chief secretary of the Prague City Party Committee.

The guests viewed the entire housing complex which will include other facilities serving the social, cultural and sport needs of the Czechoslovak and foreign trade unionists. The head of the AUCCTU delegation, which is paying a visit to Czechoslovakia, spoke about the joint Czechoslovak-Soviet construction of Druzhaba recreation center in the Crimea where Soviet and our trade unionists will spend their holidays beginning next May.

The AUCCTU delegation, together with the delegation of the Central Council of Trade Unions, also laid a wreath today at the monument to Soviet soldiers at the central honorary burial place of Red Army soldiers at Olsany Cemetary in Prague.

CPCZ'S HOFFMANN ADDRESSES 25TH KPOE CONGRESS

AU171802 Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German 15 Jan 84 p 6

[Address by Karel Hoffmann, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, at 25th KPOe Congress in Vienna on 14 January]

[Text] I would like to convey to you, the delegates of the party congress, and through you to all communists and working people of Austria the sincere and comradely greetings of our party, its Central Committee, and the personal greetings of Comrade Gustav Husak, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary.

One of the most serious problems troubling mankind is the question of war and peace. This applies particularly to the present world situation, which is marked by the belligerent policy of the aggressive militarist forces of imperialism, especially the military-industrial complex of the United States, and which is rightly described as the most critical period since World War II.

Many people consider a quiet life in peace a matter of course. However, no one should forget that nearly 40 years of peace in Europe was not a gift from heaven, but the result of the persistent struggle of the socialist countries, of all progressive and peaceful forces, for its preservation. In this, the decisive factor was the existence of an approximate military-strategic balance between the United States and the Soviet Union Union, between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, through which U.S. imperialism has been prevented prevented from dealing with the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community from a position of strength and from forcing its will upon them.

The socialist countries have extended their hand to the NATO countries many times, for an agreement, for measures that would increase mutual confidence and primarily security on our continent.

Now, when new U.S. intermediate-range missiles are being deployed in West Europe, that is in the direct vicinity of the Czechoslovak border, the socialist countries find themselves compelled to adopt appropriate defense measures to prevent the worst. Under no circumstances must we permit the existing balance to be upset. We are committed to secure our own safety as well as the safety of the socialist community and peace for all peoples.

Long live the KPOe! Long live the fraternal cooperation between our communist parties! Long live peace!

Hoffmann, KPOe Leaders Meet

LD152355 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] At the end of the 25th KPOe Congress, the CPCZ delegation headed by Karel Hoffmann, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, met Franz Muhri, KPOe chairman, as well as the members of the newly elected party leadership.

They assessed favorably the relations of the two sides to date and stressed interest in their further development on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. During the conversation, some concrete questions of mutual cooperation were also discussed.

Hoffmann Delegation Returns

LD152359 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1900 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] The CPCZ delegation led by Karel Hoffmann, Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, today returned from Vienna, where it took part in the 25th KPOe Congress. The delegation was met by Vasil Bilak, Presidium member and CPCZ Central Committee secretary, and by Radoslav Klein, head of a CPCZ Central Committee department.

STROUGAL SENDS MESSAGE TO BULGARIA'S FILIPOV

LD131236 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1100 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Federal Premier Lubomir Strougal has sent a telegram of condolences to Bulgarian Council of Ministers Chairman Grisha Filipov on the tragic accident of the Bulgarian aircraft.

SCHOOLS SHOULD ORIENT PUPILS TOWARD WORKERS JOBS

AU161225 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Crossroads on the Path to Adulthood"]

[Excerpt] For a number of years, a considerable proportion of young people have been manifesting certain irregularities in choosing their profession. The findings from this year's preliminary surveys, for example, again confirm their unrealistic and uncalled-for interest in textile, catering and hotel-management, forestry, pedagogy, and arts schools, and a substantially smaller interest in technical schools. A recent survey of the professional value orientations of students of secondary vocational schools, confirmed that despite society's endeavors, there has not been any fundamental turnabout in the professional orientation of our young generation toward respect for society's needs, especially the need for scientific-technical development. The survey also revealed not only the students' but also their parents' inadequate, or even total lack of, information about fields of studies.

In searching for the causes of irregularities in the guiding of young people toward a mature choice of profession, we must thus be looking, first and foremost, for our own inconsistencies. The survey and also the findings of general practice show that not everywhere has education toward a choice of profession become an integral part of the communist education of children. It is in particular the incorrect and often negative attitude toward workers professions which demonstrates that we are rather late in devoting attention to the professional orientation of pupils, and that this attention is not well thought-out. For example, the aforementioned survey confirmed that, instead of orienting pupils toward workers professions, elementary schools predestine pupils for these professions mainly by engaging in negative selection. They thereby label workers professions as inferior. We cannot but agree that such an "orientation" toward workers professions is very harmful from both the political and the pedagogic-psychological viewpoints and that it is absolutely incompatible with the general trend of changes in the nature of the work of workers in an advanced socialist society, under conditions of scientific-technical development.

MORE ON DOHLUS SPEECH TO KPOE CONGRESS IN VIENNA

AU171817 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 16 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] At the beginning of the speech delivered by Horst Dohlus, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, at the 25th Austrian CP [KPOe] Congress, he conveyed the most heartfelt fraternal militant greetings on behalf of the SED Central Committee, General Secretary Comrade Erich Honecker, and all GDR Communists. From the party congress rostrum, he reaffirmed amid stormy applause the firm internationalist solidarity with the struggle of the Austrian Communists.

High Esteem for the Class Comrades

"The stubborn, consistent endorsement by the Austrian Communists of their country's working people's social and national interests, of peace, disarmament, and international detente as well as their attitude toward the socialist world -- which is determined by proletarian internationalism -- elicit our great esteem," Horst Dohlus underscored. This also constitutes the firm basis of the close affinity and joint struggle of the two parties for the benefit of our peoples and for peace.

The speaker assured the Austrian Communists that the SED is standing at their side, always and in any situation.

The SED delegation head stressed that the 25th party congress is taking place at a time-in which preserving and securing peace and preventing a nuclear inferno have become a decisive, vital problem for all peoples of our world.

The most recent international development bears out the joint assessment that the most aggressive quarters of imperialism, particularly of the United States, are stepping up their frenetic aspirations to military superiority over socialism and to world domination.

U.S. First-Strike Weapons Enhance Peril of a Nuclear World War

"I would like to give the assurance here," Horst Dohlus said, "that the GDR, as Comrade Erich Honecker announced at the seventh session of our Central Committee, regards it as its major concern, through political stability, economic dynamics, and a steady continuation of the unity of economic and social policy for the benefit of the people, to make its own contribution to securing peace jointly with the Soviet Union and the other socialist states in order to bar the road to the aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism."

The SED and the KPOe both believe that the deployment of the new U.S. first-strike weapons in the FRG, Great Britain, and Italy creates not only a qualitatively new threat to the socialist states but also forces another round of the arms race on the world and enhances the peril of a nuclear world war.

In this contest, the immediate security interests of neutral and nonaligned states of our continent are also affected.

"We shall not permit the United States and NATO to gain military superiority," the SED delegation head emphasized. "The countermeasures of the USSR, GDR, and CSSR, which are indispensable in the interest of peace, evince our firm attitude and determination not to permit us to be blackmailed and to resolutely rebuff the adventurous policy of the Reagan administration."

Horst Dohlus expressed the conviction that the forces which are uniting against the arms drive and the confrontation policy and to improve the international situation in a peace movement of unprecedented strength, are strong enough to achieve -- in a coalition of commonsense and good will -- a breakthrough toward disarmament and detente. He expressed great esteem for the resolute commitment of the Austrian Communists to their country's antiwar movement, for their collaboration with all the other peace forces.

In a close, fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and together with the other socialist states, the GDR, at the juncture between NATO and the Warsaw Pact member states, will do all it can to ensure that never again will a war spring from German soil, that the danger of nuclear war is averted, and that peace is preserved, the speaker stated.

The GDR is willing to cooperate with all forces and to develop dialogue and collaboration in the spirit of the principles of the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems.

The GDR and Austria Provide an Example of Constructive Policy

"With the positive development of their cooperation, the GDR and the Republic of Austria provide an outstanding example of how even under the complicated international conditions fruitful relations of peaceful coexistence can be fashioned by a constructive approach on both sides, relations which help to preserve and secure peace," Horst Dohlus said.

The GDR continues to advocate removing all nuclear weapons from Europe. As a step on this road, it endorses creating nuclear-free zones, a treaty on renouncing the use of force between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and the reunification of the first use of nuclear weapons by all nuclear powers, following the example of the Soviet Union. The GDR demands that the militirization of space be banned.

It is for this purpose that the proposals made by the Warsaw Pact member states and submitted in their Prague declaration and in the Moscow statement, continue to remain on the table and are pointing out a constructive road toward ensuring peace.

All this will also determine the GDR's position at the Stockholm conference.

Horst Dohlus stated: "We shall also examine in the future any proposal coming from Bonn which contains a realistic chance of securing peace and of implementing the relations between the two German states in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Basic Treaty."

Subsequently, the speaker gave an account of the vast efforts undertaken by the Communists and all GDR working people in preparation for the 35th anniversary of the founding of the first worker-peasant state in order to implement the decisions of the 10th SED Congress on fashioning a developed socialist society. In doing so, they are guided by the often confirmed truism that the stronger socialism is, the safer peace is.

Despite the exacerbated international conditions, the socialist GDR has proven to be a politically stable state with a dynamically developing economy.

The GDR's Successful Road Will Be Continued

Horst Dohlus pointed out, for example, that last year industrial commodity output rose 4.6 percent and the net monetary receipts of the population increased 2.3 percent, while the prices of basic commodities, rents, and services remained stable. The housing conditions for 6 million GDR citizens have improved since 1971 and another 4.3 million citizens will receive new or modernized apartments by 1990.

"Our socialist societal system is distinguished by social security, educational opportunities for every possible development of personality, genuine democracy for the people, and the implementation of basic human rights. This constitutes the essence of real socialism and demonstrates its superiority over capitalism," the SED delegation head stated and reaffirmed: "Comrades, you may rest assured that the SED, which has further consolidated its fighting strength and affinity with the masses, will further successfully tread on this road in the 35th year since the founding of our republic with the collaboration of 2.2 million Communists and all working people."

The delegation, which observed Comrade Muhri's report and the interesting discussion at the party congress with great interest, is impressed by the Austrian Communists' determination to consistently defend the social interests and democratic rights of the workers class and of all working people and to multiply their efforts in the struggle for securing peace, the speaker stated.

Horst Dohlus wished the delegates that the party congress may help enhance the fighting strength and influence of the KPÖ and that they may score new successes in their complicated struggle for the interests of the working people, for peace, democracy, and social progress.

AUTOMATIC GUNS ALONG BORDER ALLEGEDLY REMOVED

DW180849 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] GDR Border Troops today resumed dismantling automatic guns. According to reports by our correspondent in Kassel, by evening the devices had been removed from a 400-meter stretch near the border crossing of Herleshausen in north Hesse. The dismantling was also continued along the Schleswig Holstein section of the border. Automatic guns remain installed along 390 km of the 1400-km intra-German border.

STORMS CAUSE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE 14-15 JAN

AU171450 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 16 Jan 84 p 2

[Summary] Berlin (ADN) -- During the night of 14 to 15 January, storms in the Rostock, Schwerin, Neubrandenburg, and Magdeburg bezirks reached speeds up to 125 KM per hour and caused disturbances in the energy supply in the Schwerin, Rostock, Magdeburg, Potsdam, Erfurt, Neubrandenburg, and Halle bezirks. By Sunday evening 450,100 energy consumers of the 459,200 whose supplies had been temporarily cut off were again connected to the network. There were also disturbances in the communications network, and 6,000 households in Naumburg were temporarily without their water supply because of an electrical breakdown. Two people were injured when a tree fell on a car in the Schleiz Kreis and several trains were delayed because of fallen trees and poles that blocked the rails. The ferry between Warnemuende and Gedser had to be temporarily discontinued and the handling operations in the harbors of Rostock, Stralsund, and Wismar were discontinued until Sunday morning. In Berlin the fire brigade was called 377 times to deal with damage caused by the storm.

ACZEL ADDRESSES AUSTRIAN CP, ENDS VISIT

LD151558 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] The USSR endeavors to maintain the balance of power and is ready, on the basis of equal security, to conclude an agreement. This was emphasized by Gyoergy Aczel, member of the MSZMP Politburo, secretary of the Central Committee, who addressed the 25th congress of the Austrian Communist Party. The leader of the Hungarian party delegation pointed out that Soviet opposition to U.S. attempts to gain military superiority is a guarantee not only of the maintenance of peace, but also of the safeguarding of the independence of the European peoples.

The congress has again elected Franz Muhri as chairman of the party.

Returns From Austria

LD161104 Budapest MTI in English 1015 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Budapest, January 15 (MTI) -- Gyorgy Aczel, member of the HSWP Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, who had headed a party delegation at the 25th congress of the Communist Party of Austria, returned from Austria, Sunday.

IMF GRANTS 7-YEAR, $450-MILLION CREDIT

LD171428 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1400 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The IMF has granted Hungary a $450-million credit. The managing board of the financial organization has approved the agreement. The 7-year credit, which may be used within a year, offers financial support for the attainment of this year's political-economic objectives. In the last 2 years on two occasions the IMF has granted Hungary medium-term credits totaling approximately $600 million.

CULTURE MINISTER MEETS WITH SLOVAK COUNTERPART

LD180004 Budapest MTI in English 1739 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Budapest, January 17 (MTI) -- Invited by Hungarian Minister of Culture and Public Education Bela Kopeczi, Miroslav Valek, minister of culture of the Slovakian Socialist Republic, visited Budapest January 16-17. The two politicians discussed the state of cultural relations of the two countries and prospects for expanding them. The schedules for "Days of Czechoslovak Culture," to be held in Hungary in the autumn, and "Days of Hungarian Culture," to be organized in Czechoslovakia next year, were coordinated.

Gyorgy Aczel, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, has met Miroslav Valek.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED IN NEW TIMES

For the text of an interview with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi by Mikhail Chernousov in Budapest, in which Varkonyi discusses socialist policies and international unity with the USSR published in Moscow NEW TIMES No 1, January 1984, on pages 14-15, see the Eastern Europe section of the 17 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

CHURCH AFFAIRS OFFICE CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED

AU171122 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 14 Jan 84 p 5

[Unattributed interview: "Imre Miklos, Chairman of the State Office for Church Affairs Has the Word; Increasing Possibilities for Cooperation" -- date and place not given]

[Text] Consolidation characterizes church policy and relations between the state and church in our country. The settled relationship is the result of joint efforts and is based on the realization that people of a communist and religious conviction are equally interested in the development of our society. This has a stimulating effect on the strengthening of national unity. At the same time, it presupposes a reciprocity, a relationship of good partnership, which takes into account the views and expectations of the other side and respects them. Imre Miklos, chairman of the State Office for Church Affairs, has made a statement on church-state relations for our newspaper.

[Interviewer] The favorable development of church-state relations is being followed with increasing interest at home and abroad alike. How has the progression and development of this relationship become possible?

[Miklos] In our relations we build on the intentions and endeavors that are common to us, on areas in which we can cooperate without relinquishing our world outlook. We value highly the fact that the majority of church leaders and priests display great understanding, a sense of responsibility, and a readiness to help where the problems and difficulties that emerge in our changed circumstances are concerned.

Religious people who continuously participate in creative work cannot be considered at loggerheads with socialism. Political accord is strengthened by the fact that free exercise of religion prevails. That is the reason for the failure of those who repeatedly try to use religious people and religion for political objectives. Favorable experiences and the results of joint efforts have strengthened mutual trust. Through negotiations and discussions, we have been able to resolve the problems that affect church-state relations.

[Interviewer] Another experience is that events of church life and practical steps of our church policy elicit surprise and, in some cases, a lack of understanding. What are the most frequent issues and problems that arise nowadays?

[Miklos] The issues disputed are qualitatively different in content. Some of them can be attributed to a lack of information, and others to the fact that familiarity with the subject is more difficult in the rapidly changing circumstances. It happens that the development of an objective viewpoint is made more difficult also by simplified positions, or, occasionally, impetuous positions in connection with the churches and religion. According to such views, the church policy of the party and government is liberal, because it does not limit the priests' activity in religious life by administrative measures, grants state subsidies for the churches, and so forth. There are people who recommend unprincipled submissiveness as the solution for sectarian views. They recommend that we relinquish Marxist-Leninist ideological eduction, because it offends the sensibility of religious people and disturbs political cooperation.

All this clearly shows that there is still a great deal to do in the area of the homogeneous interpretation and practical implementation of our church policy. We are ready -- for it is thorough this that we have reached the present state of affairs -- to self-critically examine our activity and expose the circumstances that hamper joint action.

Views that regard a dialogue as superfluous and recommend negotiations from an authoritative position instead, are indicative of a lack of understanding of our policy of alliance, including our church policy. Nor, however, is it not conducive to a solution of problems if a priest or church leader adopts a position without taking the realities into consideration, does not examine for what things the prerequisites are ripe and for what they are not, whether it is justified to place certain matters on the agenda, or whether it is not. I am of the opinion that such positions have never led to constructive solutions. Only at the negotiating table could and can one resolve problems. As the past decades have proven, our state displays a far-reaching, tolerant attitude. It regards as natural the fact that the churches preach their own religious principles, and expects that they, for their part, not protest against the propagation of Marxism-Leninism in society. The propagation of a scientific world outlook is not offensive to religious people, it is not a question of authority, but arises from the Marxist belief that a revolutionary transformation of society is possible only if people themselves change.

[Interviewer] Are the opinions according to which we are witnessing a revival of religiousness, especially among youth, well founded?

[Miklos] The measure of religiousness, up-dated to the minute, cannot be established, and certain sociological statistics and reports supply only partial answers to this question. One often encounters mistaken interpretation which identify measurable manifestations with religiousness. The various international, social, and individual circumstances have a profound effect on the development of the people's ideological conviction. It is also important to stress the fact that in Hungary religiousness does not mean political confrontation, open or hidden opposition to socialism, and longer today. Religious people have many moral values that encourage participation in socialist construction. Under our circumstances, it is unfounded to speak either of a rapid decay of religion, or a renaissance of religiousness. It is worth noting that the interest in religions and churches among youth has increased. We do not consider this unnatural. The new generation, by its nature, is interested in everything which is unknown to them. It should be realized that we did not devote enough attention and care to ensuring that they have a manysided and up-to-date knowledge in this area, too.

In my view, interest cannot and must not be suppressed, realistic requirements must be satisfied. It is a great achievement that in Hungary, a religious person can be in favor of social advancement without being obliged to give up his religious conviction. We are aware of the fact that an ideological difference requires great training and patience from everyone wishing to convince people of the correctness of his ideology.

[Interviewer] It is well know that there are persons and groups within the churches that oppose positive relations. To what extent does their activity disturb the peace of religious people and the churches, and order in society?

[Miklos] In every church, small communities have come to the fore whose aim is to make the faithful lead a more intensive spiritual life. If these communities respect the rules and order of the given church, nobody will oppose their activity. We consider them renewal movements, which have often appeared in the history of the churches. Within the Catholic Church, there has emerged a variant, certain members and leaders of which offend the church and state laws. In connection with them, A. Casaroli, cardinal state secretary, took a stand on behalf of Pope John Paul II in the spring of this year.

Despite this clear position, some of them dared to impose a different interpretation on the authentic papal decision. They did not, however, contribute by this to settling the issue, which endangers church unity, and it does not please us, either, if order in society and the peace of the religious people is disturbed.

[Interviewer] What do you consider to be the most important aims and tasks of church policy?

[Miklos] Everything that we can evaluate as successful in the area of church policy is the result of the common efforts of the state and church. Only along this path can further development be achieved. Strengthening national unity is the most important thing. To achieve this, in the spirit of our alliance policy, we are deliberately developing practical cooperation between communists and religious people. Religious people on the national and local levels must be increasingly brought into public life and the discussion of everyday problems. The political alliance of people of different ideologies must be strengthened almost day by day, and this is possible through common efforts. Settled relations make possible the development of a dialogue, and the exchange of views strengthens the alliance achieved on a principled basis.

BRIEFS

DEPUTY MINISTER RELIEVED -- The Council of Ministers has relieved Imre Kovacs, deputy minister of agriculture and food, of his position, with appreciation for his merits. Imre Kovacs has been appointed deputy director of the MSZMP Central Committee's Department of Economic Policy. [Text] [Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 7 Jan 84 p 20 AU]

MARJAI VISITS SPAIN -- Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, held afternoon talks on 4 January in Madrid with Alfonso Guerra, Spanish deputy prime minister. During the cordial talks they reviewed the relations between their two countries. They stressed that both governments strive for the extensive development of Spanish-Hungarian relations, especially in the field of economic cooperation. They mutually expressed their ideas concerning this. Present at the talks was Kalman Docze, Hungary's ambassador in Madrid. [Text] [Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 5 Jan 84 p 3 AU]

CULTURE PROTOCOL WITH ROMANIA -- Hungary and Romania are ready to develop their cultural contacts. This is contained, among other things, in the protocol that was signed in Bucharest by Dezsoe Toth, deputy minister of culture and education, Ion Stefanescu, first vice chairman of the Romanian council for socialist culture and education. They have also agreed to work out proposals to improve cultural and educational cooperation. [Text] [Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 13 Jan 84 LD]

MINISTER URBAN ON REAGAN SPEECH, ECONOMY

LD171937 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Report by Marek Kassa]

[Text] Economic matters dominated at a press conference for foreign correspondents given by Government Spokesman Jerzy Urban, with the participation of representatives of the Council of Ministers' Planning Commission.

The economic results of last year were presented, indicating a certain enlivening and improvement of our economic situation. Assumptions for the current year were also presented. It was said, among other things, that investments will be curtailed and further efforts will be made to increase market production. Present ration card allocations will be maintained, although, for example in the case of meat, this will be achieved through decreasing allocations to the catering industry. In 1984, it will unfortunately be impossible to decrease our foreign debts.

Answering a question about the fate of the church foundation for agriculture, Minister Urban said the draft law on foundations is currently being examined by three ministerial departments and experts from the Episcopate. He indicated, however, that the entire matter should be approached with caution, because there is much indication that the possible money coming into the foundation's account will be considerably more limited than was originally assumed.

Closing the conference, Minister Jerzy Urban presented the Government's attitude toward the latest speech by Ronald Reagan:

[Begin Urban recording] The speech does not possess any new and essential elements that would indicate a real change in the hitherto political course of the United States on the key issues of peace and security in the world. That is, issues such as the limitation of nuclear armaments and conventional armaments and the principles on which negotiations with the Soviet Union should take place concerning limiting armaments, and relations in general with the Soviet Union, and, in broader terms, relations between East and West and activities aimed at preventing crises and conflicts in various regions of the world, the so-called regional problems. I have listed here only a few key problems.

President Reagan confirmed in his speech that he will continue the main assumptions of his policy hitherto: the arms race and conducting talks with the Soviet Union from positions of strength. We are all witnesses of the dangerous consequences this policy has brought about so far. Admittedly, President Reagan talks a lot about peace and common interests, about this platform between the United States and the Soviet Union. However, these are only words, words -- at least so far -- that have no evidence in action. It is difficult to accept them as the real expression of the U.S. Government's political will.

In view of this, the speech should be assessed as another attempt at convincing world public opinion, and American society in particular and West European society even more because they are worried by the policy of the present U.S. Administration, that the United States is not responsible for the arms race and the dangerous increase in tension and threats posed to the world's peace caused by the start of the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in West Europe. The speech is an attempt to shift the blame for this situation onto the Soviet Union.

I am ready to share the view that the tone of President Reagan's speech is somewhat different from his statements hitherto on the subject of U.S.-USSR relations. However, it is difficult not to notice that the speech was delivered on the eve of the Stockholm conference and hence is of a ceremonial nature, and perhaps that's why the tone was different.

At the same time it is dictated by the demands of the electoral campaign in the United States and it is estimated there that alarm is growing over the President's belligerence. As far as the issue of limiting nuclear and conventional weapons and of actions to promote peace and security in Europe and the world are concerned, Poland has made and is making an active contribution to these actions. We fully support the initiatives of the Soviet Union, [word indistinct] by Yuriy Andropov, and the joint initiatives of the Warsaw Pact states in this respect. We have in mind here the November statement by Yuriy Andropov that, as is known, expressed fidelity to a policy aimed at ending the arms race. We also greeted with satisfaction the Soviet Union's readiness to return to the proposals of the Soviet side [word indistinct] reduction of armaments if the United States and the other NATO countries show readiness to return to the situation before the beginning of the deployment of U.S. medium-range weapons in Europe. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT-PRON SESSION DEBATES REFORM ISSUES

LD171236 Warsaw PAP in English 1101 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Polish Government Presidium and presidium of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON) today held their third joint meeting to assess the implementation of PRON Congress opinions.

The matter was also discussed by government officials, who told about undertaken steps to carry out the initiatives and proposals of PRON activists. There were presented PRON's plans concerning solutions of the country's socio-economic problems. The debates were presided over by Premier Army Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski.

PRON Vice-Chairman W. Lewandowski discussed the key theses of PRON's approach to socio-economic problems of Poland and the movement's participation in solving them. This report was a synthesis of a wide many-month-long discussion held in PRON's local units. The speaker stressed that a working discussion on the subject had been held by a panel of PRON factory representatives from more than 140 enterprises all over Poland.

The speaker pointed to the fact that the economic reform aroused remarkable interest among PRON activists. In practice, we are still dealing with solutions typical of the central economic functioning model as well as with new assumptions ensuing from the gist of the reform. This peculiar dualism is disquieting to PRON activists, said the speaker who emphasized PRON's support for the reform.

This discussion on the economic problems also showed that motivating systems are still a tender spot of the reform mechanisms and arouse many objections. The lack of these systems or their weakness are the reason that the reform gets too slow to work places.

W. Lewandowski also stressed that PRON activists voiced the belief that the government should be taking the position of arbitrator in economic issues, without getting directly involved in settling the often contradictory strivings of consumer groups, enterprises and managers.

PRON's National Council displayed exceptional care in handling the issues of housing, departing from the assumption that the position of housing in economy does not match its social importance. Development of the housing complex should play a key role in the system of consumption.

Deputy Defence Minister Gen. Tadeusz Tuczapski discussed the results of inspections carried out by military groups last December. He declared the style of management, organization of production and work discipline improved in many sectors of industry, factories and offices.

The implementation of the proposals and postulates put forth during the 1st PRON Congress was discussed by PRON General Secretary, alternate PUWP CC Political Bureau member Marian Orzechowski.

The proposals forwarded at that time dealt with nearly all the walks of social and economic life. The biggest number of postulates was addressed to the Council of Ministers. So far, we have received answers to almost all of them. This is an evidence that the good practice of responding to all proposals and postulates is getting consolidated, he said.

We also note with satisfaction that forms of cooperation between PRON's National Council and central offices as well as social bodies attached to the government are expanding, said Orzechowski.

The discussion concerned, among other things, the problem of house building. According to the estimations, about 300 thousand families should be granted definitely and as quick as possible flats of their own. The issue of price rises was also discussed. One of the unquestionable achievements of the nationwide debate on changes in foodstuffs prices is the consent of the majority of those polled to minor but successively introduced rises, it was emphasized at the meeting. Two years ago it would be simply impossible to achieve such a result. Now, the findings of the social consultation testify to a growing maturity of society and to an increasing general economic knowledge.

At the close of the gathering the floor was taken by Wojciech Jaruzelski who stressed that the joint meeting of the Government Presidium and the PRON's Executive Council crowns an important stage of the work on postulates put forward by the 1st National Congress of PRON. Both the statements by the movement's representatives and the explanations given by representatives of the government, indicate that we have made a significant step in the implementation of these postulates. In order to make it fully visible and tangible for the society -- the premier stressed -- it is advisable to set up an appropriate team, composed of representatives of PRON and representatives of the office of the Council of Ministers, to work up and popularize the proposals put forward and adopted at today's meeting.

Referring to the topics covered at the meeting, Wojciech Jaruzelski described as interesting, among other things, the proposals put forward by PRON and concerning speeding up the housing construction. They can be included in the amended programme for house building, now being prepared by the government.

Very valuable -- the prime sminister said -- is the attention paid by PRON's links, by the commissions and activists of this movement, to the issues of reforming the Polish economy. The reform, with all the difficulties connected with its introduction, has already reaffirmed the correctness of the road we embarked upon. We shall make a point -- Wojciech Jaruzelski stated -- that the reform yields ever more effective results. The modifications introduced at the beginning of this year should effectively eliminate the hitherto weaknesses and reservations. I also hold up the proposal for the PRON's Council to offer its candidates to the commission for the reform.

We receive with attention the opinions and postulates put forward by the movement's activists, by PRON's National Council. This is also proved by today's meeting. It constitutes a form of social insight into the mechanism of the government's work it makes it possible to become better acquainted with the motivations behind particular decisions and solutions.

Referring to post-control materials contributed to the activities by military task group and to research carried by the Supreme Chamber of Control, Wojciech Jaruzelski stressed that in our social life there still occur many negative phenomena, requiring energetic counteraction. Particularly significant in this task is the role of PRON's links, affiliating people who are committed and sensitive to the evil.

Today's joint meeting -- the premier said at the close -- is an important step on the road of developing and improving the forms of cooperation between the state and society.

MINISTERS APPROVE AMENDED PRICE INCREASES

LD171920 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Council of Ministers has acknowledged the report of the ministers for price affairs and labor, wages and social affairs in regard to the scaled-down price increases and their total value compared to the price increases originally suggested and also in regard to higher compensations. Consideration for the results of the social consultation means that the financial effects of the rise of food prices will be less than envisaged. The government has approved, with certain amendments, the draft price increases and ways to compensate its effects. The draft submitted by the ministers for price affairs and labor, wages and social affairs was published on Thursday, 12 January in the press.

The Council of Ministers has deemed it possible to take into consideration some of the additionally submitted trade union postulates, including reducing the price for "Extra" butter suggested by the minister for price affairs from Z104 per packet to Z98 and increasing the allowance for handicapped children from Z1,000 to Z1,500 per month. Above all, however, the Council of Ministers has adopted a number of decisions designed to ease the effects of the price increases, by making it possible to increase earnings achieved as the result of stepped-up production.

In particular, it has been decided to improve the attractiveness of working in trades with acute labor shortages by pensioners and annuitants. In addition, the government has decided not to ask the Sejm to extend the validity of the binding regulation concerning income tax for earnings obtained in secondary and subsequent places of employment.

The government asks the Sejm to approve as speedily as possible the bill related to the experimental assumptions for remuneration. The bill will provide better conditions for the creation of factory incentive systems.

The Council of Ministers has underscored emphatically that the change of prices for food cannot constitute a pretext for a groundless increase in prices for derivative products and services. It has also recommended that the minister for price affairs should, in the future, gradually adapt the level of official retain prices for staple food to changes in the cost of agricultural production.

The Council of Ministers has decided to introduce the new food prices, beginning the last Monday of January, that is on 30th of this month.

The Council of Ministers then examined the report of the minister of home trade and services on the market supplies of food during the first quarter of this year. It has been ascertained that the supplies of these goods will be similar to the level during the corresponding period of last year.

The full text of the communique of the Government Press Bureau dealing with the activities of the Council of Ministers will be carried by tomorrow's press.

Prices, Wages Draft Amended

LD172001 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1830 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Today the Government Press Bureau published a communique on the Council of Ministers meeting. The government has acknowledged the report of the ministers on prices, wages, and social welfare on the lower scale, and on the sum total of the price increases compared to those originally suggested, as well as higher compensations. This means taking into consideration the results of the social consultation. The draft of both ministers, which was published in the press on 12 January, last Thursday, has been approved with certain amendments.

The Council of Ministers has agreed to take into consideration some of the additionally submitted trade union postulates, including that for the reduction of the new price for the butter "Extra" from Z104 to Z98 per packet and the increase of the allowance for handicapped children from Z1,000 to Z1,500. Above all, however, the government has adopted a number of decisions designed to ease the effects of the price increases by making it possible to increase earnings.

These decisions supplement and widen the proposals of the ministers for prices, wages, and social welfare of 12 January. The government has also recommended the gradual adaptation of the level of official retail prices to changes in the cost of agricultural production, so as to avoid one-time rises in the future. The Council of Ministers thanked all citizens and organizations for their participation in the consultations and for views expressed and proposals submitted. These will be the subject of a further, thorough analysis by government bodies.

The Council of Ministers has decided to introduce new food prices, starting the last Monday in January -- that is, on the 30th of this month. More about these decisions later in the news.

The Council of Ministers has also examined the report of the minister of home trade and services on the market supplies of food during the first quarter of this year. It has been ascertained that the supplies of these goods will be similar to the level during the corresponding period of last year. Among other things there will be more dairy produce, fruit and vegetables, vegetable fats, eggs, macaroni, fish, and sugar on sale. Thanks in part to considerable imports, the expected meat supplies will ensure that rationing requirements will be met.

The full text of the communique will be carried by tomorrow's press.

Food Price Increase Approved

LD172152 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2100 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Council of Ministers has acknowledged a report of the ministers for prices and for labor, wages and social welfare about the lower scale and total of price increases compared with the originally suggested higher compensations. Taking social consultation into consideration means that the financial effects of the food prices increase will be less than envisaged. The government has approved, with certain amendments, the draft price increases and the ways of compensating for their effects.

Thus, there will be no increase in the prices of items which constitute the basic ingredients in the food of people with the lowest incomes. This group of products includes cottage cheeses, margarine, rape seed oils and some cuts of beef-on-the-bone. The scale of price increases for bread has also been reduced compared with the initial proposals in the variants submitted for consultation. The popular kinds of bread will go up from Z16 to Z20 a loaf, although the earlier proposals envisaged a higher price. Prices for the best cuts of meat and best sausages have been fixed at an intermediate level between the proposals in the first lower variant and the second higher variant, submitted for consultation.

Other prices were left at the level of the first lower variant submitted to public opinion for consultation. On the other hand, the figure for compensations will be higher than the proposals submitted for consultation. It will amount to about Z65 billion. This proves clearly that many social demands were taken into consideration.

A conference took place at the Government Press Bureau, where the decisions of the Council of Ministers on the increase of food prices were announced.

KRASINSKI SPEAKS TO PRESS ON PRICE INCREASES

LD172146 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Ladies and gentlemen: In the Government Press Bureau today there was a press conference on the subject of yesterday's decision by the Council of Ministers on the increase in food prices and compensation. Here are extensive excerpts from that conference.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Good day, ladies and gentlemen: I welcome you warmly. Today's conference is devoted to the government's decision on the issue of price increases and financial compensation for the (?materially) weakest groups of the population and on the other decisions accompanying this event. I now ask Minister Krasinski [chairman of the State Price Committee] to comment on the decision by the government.

[Krasinski] What will be the movement of prices that will come into force? Well, in relation to the prices of foodstuffs sold in socialized trade, I remind you that the extent of the turnover amounts to almost Z1.2 trillion in 1983. The price increase, together with the price increase of derivative articles, will amount to Z115 billion. This is, therefore, almost exactly, or somewhat less, than 10 percent. If we were, in relation to all the food sold in socialized and nonsocialized trade, to want to tie in the price increase, then it is 6 percent; all the food purchased by the population will increase in price by 6 percent. I point out: purchased and not consumed, because part [words indistinct] supply.

I remind you that in 1982 [as heard] a movement of prices occurred similar to the present one -- although at the time the name "official prices" did not exist, they did according to the present definition -- with an increase of 250 percent. This is, therefore, on a more than 20-fold smaller scale. Two more comparisons: In 1984 incomes will rise by Z586 billion. The net result -- one could define it as the net burden on society -- as a result of the price changes, will amount to exactly Z50 billion. This is, therefore, less than one-tenth of the increase in the incomes planned, estimated, and expected in 1984.

Finally, the 50 billion sum of the burden of the balance, so to speak, in relation to Z4,868 thousand billion that the population will receive in the current year, is more or less somewhat larger than 1 percent. [sentence as heard]

And now, briefly, in what direction have the price changes gone? Two (?examples): [Words indistinct] there is a group of articles (?whose) prices have not undergone a change. [Words indistinct] these are popular articles, purchased by the materially weaker groups of the population. The prices (?are without) change. The second group has an increase lower than the variant presented, than any of the variants presented on 12 November.

Proposals for price changes. These cover the basic types of bread and flour. The third group gets a smaller increase than in the second variant, but greater than in the first variant. These are the best quality meat and smoked meats; they hover somewhere in the middle, although the results of the questionnaire showed that the population was ready to accept prices even higher than in the second variant.

Finally, according to the second variant, prices of only two products were decided. An ordinary bread roll, which is included in the category of negotiated prices -- its price will amount to about 4, just as in the second variant [passage indistinct] [end recording]

JARUZELSKI ATTENDS LAW, ORDER COMMITTEE SESSION

AU171541 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 13 Jan 84 pp 1-2

[Text] PAP -- On 12 January there was a meeting of the Council of Ministers' Committee for the Observance of Law, Public Order, and Social Discipline devoted to the most urgent tasks facing this body. Army General Wojciech Jaruzelski, chairman of the Council of Ministers, took part in the talks.

Summing up the discussion, General Jaruzelski pointed out those tasks of the committee that emerge from the country's current sociopolitical situation. He said that the party and government leadership has commenced a firm battle against the phenomena that delay the country's emergence from the crisis, especially the misappropriation and waste of public property, speculation, tax evasion, bad quality production, corruption, and the use of one's office to achieve personal advantages. The results of these phenomena are disorganizing economic life and are also a burden to citizens. They demand firm and effective action by all state bodies. General W. Jaruzelski stressed the need to combine these efforts with the activities of social and youth organizations and of the trade unions. The Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth may have a special role to play, rallying society to battle against all signs of evil as widely as possible. He stressed that the norms of work that guard the interests of the citizens and the socialist state should be consistently and firmly put into practice.

CARDINAL GLEMP VISITS VATICAN FOR TALKS

For ANSA and AFP reportage on the visit to the Vatican by Cardinal Jozef Glemp, including his arrival statement on 16 January and reports on the expected subject of his talks with Pope John Paul II, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 17 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MANESCU MEETS WITH MITTERRAND, VIEWS RELATIONS

AU172126 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 2030 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Paris (AGERPRES) 17/1/1984 -- President Francois Mitterrand of the French Republic received Manea Manescu, vice-president of Romania's State Council, at the Elysee Palace, on January 17. On behalf of President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, President Francois Mitterrand was conveyed a message and a cordial salute and wishes of good health and personal happiness, and wishes of prosperity for the friendly French people.

Thanking and appreciating highly the messages, President Francois Mitterrand sent President Nicolae Ceausescu a warm salute and wishes of new successes and personal happiness, and wished progress to the friendly Romanian people.

During the interview the sides looked into the stage attained by the Romanian-French bilateral relations and into the prospects of development of the collaboration and cooperation on multiple planes between the two countries and peoples, to mutual advantage. The sides pointed out the wish for action to broaden to a greater extent in view of an intensification of the political relations between the two friendly countries, and of diversification of the economic, technical and scientific cooperation, on third markets included, in the spirit of the agreements and understandings reached. Highlighted in particular was the need for new cooperation-in-production ventures to be initiated, for the trade and technical and scientific collaboration to be expanded in view of a better capitalization of the two countries' economic potential.

President Francois Mitterrand assessed the Romanian-French relations of friendship as good. The French head of state considered as useful the intensification of the meetings at a government level, between ministers, personalities of the economic, cultural, scientific life for the development of the Romanian-French relations on multiple planes. In that context he emphasized the need for their continued development, mentioning that he would give full support to the materialization of the actions for the amplification of the relations between Romania and France.

The vice-president of the State Council presented the considerations of Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, referring to the current issues of international life, especially the grave situation in Europe. Presented during the interview were the initiatives of Romania, of President Nicolae Ceausescu with regard to the necessity of urgent action for halting the emplacement of new medium-range missiles in Europe, for the resumption of the Geneva negotiations, for seeking out equitable solutions in view of reducing the medium-range missiles to the lowest level, as an important step toward eliminating the nuclear weapons. President Francois Mitterrand shared the worry about the worsening of the situation in Europe and expressed France's wish to make her full contribution to the resumption of the Geneva talks.

OPREA RECEIVES CSSR FUEL MINISTER EHRENBERGER

AU171903 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1649 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 17/1/1984 -- On January 17 Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister, received Vlastimil Ehrenberger, minister of fuel and power of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. During the interview the sides highlighted with satisfaction the Romanian-Czechoslovak good relations of friendship and collaboration that witness a continuous development in the spirit of the understandings and decisions reached at summit level. The sides also pointed out that wide possibilities existed for expansion of the economic collaboration between the two countries.

While in Romania the Czechoslovak minister conducted talks with the ministers of machine building industry, mining and electric power, with whom he looked into the stage attained by collaboration and cooperation and into the prospects of their deepening in various domains of mutual interest.

HUNGARIAN MINORITY CONTINUES TO FACE 'PERSECUTION'

AU161413 Vienna KURIER in German 15 Jan 84 p 3

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] The Hungarian minority in Romania continues to be exposed to persecution and harassment. This is evident from underground publications calling themselves "Hungarian Press of Transylvania," which have been brought to Vienna in a roundabout way and were made available exclusively to KURIER.

The shocking reports concern a Transylvanian Hungarian, Erno Borbely, who has been sentenced to 7 years imprisonment. This advocate of the Hungarian minority and critic of Romania's nationalities policy is being held in the Jilava prison in an underground cell and is not allowed to receive letters or parcels. His partisan, Laszlo Buzas, was tortured in prison, and had his fingernails pulled out.

The repression by the Romanian authorities is felt primarily in the cultural sector. The staff members of the Hungarian papers A HET and ELORE have been suspended. A group that set out on a trip to visit local geographic and historical sites, organized by the young Hungarian Communists' organ IFJU MUNKAS, was stopped by security authorities after departing from Tirgul Secuesc and the participants were "dispersed." Trips to Hungarian churches and cultural monuments were branded as "chauvinist" and as "religious-nationalist baiting."

The Romanian central authorities are also attempting to stop the contacts of the Transylvanian Hungarians with their mother country. Thus, the Oradea-Arab border crossing point was temporarily closed in November during a 3-day holiday in Hungary. The staff members of Cluj University were told that from now on they could make trips abroad only with special permits, especially trips to Hungary. Hungarian citizens -- at least in Timisoara, Cluj, and Tirgu Mures -- have been forbidden to buy foodstuffs in shops.

Nevertheless, Hungarian dissidents in Transylvania were able to score a tiny success: The anti-Hungarian and Romanian-nationalist book by the poet Lancranjan -- according to an internal party directive issued by state chief Ceausescu -- is no longer to be effusively praised. The reason given by Ceausescu: This would put too much of a strain on relations with Budapest.

SCINTEIA ON THEFT, DELIVERY NORM NONOBSERVANCE

AU161620 [Editorial Report] Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian on 12 January carries a 400-word report on page 2 on a letter sent by the working people of Vaslui County to the party leadership drawing attention to the fact that the Deleni agricultural production cooperative "does not respect the decisions on capitalizing on certain agricultural products and food stuffs, violates slaughtering regulations, and does not observe law provisions on work remuneration in cooperative agricultural units." The report stresses that one of the more serious deeds was the fact that "fully aware, the cooperative leadership failed to deliver almost 3,000 kilograms of sheep cheese to the state stock," selling it through other channels. "True," as the report stresses, "thefts of products for personal interest were not noted."

The same page carries a 400-word report on a letter sent from Suceava to the party leadership "relating dishonest deeds at the county base for technical-material supply in Suceava. It principally, states that the responsible people in that unit sponsor the systematic theft of various goods from storage rooms such as automobile batteries, tires, and spare parts, which are then used for their own automobiles or sold to private persons.

"On Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's recommendation, the letter was forwarded to the chairman of the Higher Court of Financial Control and of the Ministry of Interior."

It is further stressed that it is necessary to strengthen the control of all operations, especially preventive control.

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOY TO MOZAMBIQUE -- By presidential decree, Comrade Vasile Musat has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the People's Republic of Mozambique to replace Comrade Mircea Zara who has been recalled to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 6 Jan 84 p 5 AU]

CROAT OFFICIAL DERIDES MILITARY COUP SPECULATION

AU171210 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 13 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] "Those who think that Yugoslavia will solve political and economic problems with military coups are wrong. Our army is not a weapon in the hands of the regime, but an integral part of the people," Pero Car, member of the Presidency of the SR of Croatia, said in an interview for the Zabreb weekly DANAS. He also replied to questions about the role and position of the LC, about the rigidity of bureaucracy, and about responsibilit

The reputation of leaders depends primarily on the attitude of these people toward the work they carry out and on their attitude toward the people around them, toward their surroundings, and toward the working masses. This is always a problem for some individuals. Some people carry out their work in high positions as people who were put at the head by the revolution should -- honestly and responsibly and above all with respect for the voice of the people, the masses, and the wishes of all the people. Unfortunately, there are also those who consider their profession an identity card for which they alone have the credit and, of course, they exploit their position and impose themselves on the society and the community in which they live and work. It is obvious that such people cannot expect any respect. There are also some people whose behavior cannot be said to be suitable for a leader or an LC member. If a worker opposes such a man, it can be very dangerous for him in proportion to the position and the power such a leader holds.

The fear that the army could assume power because of our economic difficulties and other things is mere speculation, of which there is no dearth in Europe or elsewhere. It is obviously a case of specualtion by people who know nothing at all about our system, our people, or our revolution and who try to assess the life, fate, and prospects of Yugoslavia on the basis of experiences in Central and South America, Africa, and other places. The army in Socialist Yugoslavia is not a weapon of the regime. It was not set up to protect the regime and is not to be used as a force against other states. Our army is part of the people and it was created in this way. Those who can solve every problem in this country, even in the most difficult conditions, regardless of some disagreements among us, are the people and the LC, even then when we are not satisfied with them. Those who think that Yugoslavia will solve political and economic problems by coups are wrong. In the past 40 years, there have been many more difficult situations than the present one but we always remained victorious in our fashion, always richer and stronger on the path of self-managing socialist Tito's orientation. Even after the present very difficult situation replete with our own shortcomings -- about which we have talked a great deal -- we will remain victorious, with greater or lesser difficulties, only on Tito's road. Everybody, both friends and those who have ill intentions, can be sure of this.

Decentralization and splits which are felt in Yugoslavia also contribute to commentaries about military rule or some sort of division of Yugoslavia. Brotherhood and unity are not a slogan. For us, they are an imperative of our existence, an imperative for the freedom of all peoples. The Croatian people have never been freer, more independent than they are now, living in harmony with other Yugoslav peoples. But a people can be fully independent and free only when living in harmony with other peoples who experience the same fate. In the opposite case, they will always be the victim of some outside apparent ally, "big brother" or some protector, be it Western or Eastern. This is the motive and the essence of our brotherhood and unity. As a Croat, I am incomparably richer when I am in contact with a foreigner in Europe or anywhere in the world, for I am at the same time enriched with the past and present values of other peoples with whom I live in harmony.

We must pay incomparably more attention to the education of the young generation. We must not tolerate a situation in which youths of 20, who grew up in this socialist society, have to be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment because they hate members of other nationalities or are opponents of our society.

It would be a great error on our part. I also think that the LC must get rid of members who have compromised themselves by their behavior, which would not be suitable even for a bourgeois morality, let alone a communist one. We have much work to do.

STOJANOVIC CHAIRS LCY PRESIDIUM SESSION 17 JAN

LD180034 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1826 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Jan (TANJUG) — At its session today chaired by Nikola Stojanovic, secretary of the Presidium, the LCY Central Committee Presidium discussed topical questions of Yugoslav sociopolitical development in 1984 and the tasks of the League of Communists in implementing the determined economic policy. The Presidium was also informed about the course of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on financial support for the implementation of the first stage of the long-term economic stabilization program.

The Presidium again emphasized that the League of Communists and all of society are facing the task of consistently implementing the resolution on the socioeconomic development of Yugoslavia in 1984. In this connection, it was emphasized that maximum efforts and full mobilization are required on the part of the League of Communists, all organized socialist forces, working people and citizens to overcome the current economic difficulties and to revive production on qualitative bases. The Presidium especially points out that the resources of accumulation, including foreign credits, must be used rationally and strictly for a purpose. Above all, they must be used for production that will facilitate the greatest possible exports and ensure regular repayment of foreign credits and the implementation of the tasks set by the resolution for 1984. This must be achieved above all by relying on our own forces with greater productivity, full engagement of domestic resources, and (?rational) use of raw materials and reproduction materials.

At today's session, the Presidium also emphasized the need for all aspects of expenditure to be brought within realistic material frameworks with maximum economy. The decision to freeze prices must be consistently implemented. Those who behave differently must be energetically and efficaciously taken to task.

The LCY Central Committee Presidium must continue regularly to follow the activity of members, organs, and organizations of the League of Communists in implementing the resolution of the socioeconomic development in 1984.

The Presidium considered the obligations and tasks of the League of Communists in cadre preparations for the forthcoming election of members to the SFRY Presidency and other organs and organizations of the federation. In this connection, proceeding from the importance of these elections, the criteria contained in the social agreement on the cadre policy in the federation, the stances adopted at the second session of the LCY Central Committee, the complexity of the social situation and the importance of these organs, the Presidium adopted principles that should guide the sociopolitical activity of the members, organizations, and leaderships of the League of Communists, as well as the democratic procedure of recording and nominating candidates. The LCY Central Committee Presidium will acquaint the central and provincial committees of the League of Communists with these stances. At the same time, these stances are also the basis for the initiative that the Presidium has undertaken in the Presidium of the SAWPY Federal Conference to begin political preparations for the forthcoming elections.

INFLATION EXCEEDS 58 PERCENT IN 1983, SETS RECORD

AU161401 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1336 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, January 11 (TANJUG) -- The inflation rate in Yugoslavia for 1983 was one of 58.4 per cent, the Federal Bureau for Prices announced today, Wednesday. This was also the figure for the retail price increases in December 1983 over the same month of 1982. The previously highest rate of inflation in Yugoslavia, one of 39.3 per cent, was recorded in 1981.

In 1983, the food industry products accounted for the highest average price increase -- 73.4 per cent, and services for the lowest -- 50 per cent.

NOVA MAKEDONIJA ON BULGARIAN CADRE RESHUFFLE

AU171423 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Serbo-Croatian 14 Jan 84 p 11

[Permanent correspondent Dusko Malevski report]

[Text] Sofia, 13 Jan -- After the significant changes in the highest party organs and in the government, which occurred early this month, some other shifts have been made which complement the impression that an extensive cadre restructuring is in process.

First secretaries were changed in three okrug committees; first in Mikhailovgrad, and then in Kyustendil and Blagoevgrad. Vladimir Sandev, until now first secretary of the Blagoevgrad Okrug Committee, has been elected deputy chairman of the Central Control and Audit Commission. His post has been taken by Lazar Orichkapov (who until now headed the Department for Agitation and Propaganda of the Central Committee).

The latest issue of DURZHAVEN VESTNIK announces the new functions of the replaced ministers. Some of them -- as it has been known -- are heading the new ministries which embrace several departments, and others have retained ministerial rank and have been appointed deputies to the new ministers. This is the case of Sakarev, minister of construction and architecture; Serbzov, minister of light industry; Chakurov, minister of machine building and electronics, and others. Kiril Zarev, former deputy premier, has no new duty in the government but he remains secretary of the Central Committee.

In Sofia diplomatic circles, there is talk about some reorganizations in the Central Committee apparatus but there have been no official confirmations, just as the reports of some foreign news agencies that two members of the Central Committee have been expelled and seven new ones elected have not yet been confirmed (or denied). Rumors have been heard among foreign correspondents in Sofia that some reshuffling has also been carried out among high army organs.

SRZENTIC ADDRESSES EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON TRADE

LD180049 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1935 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Strasbourg, January 17 (TANJUG) -- The agreement on economic cooperation between Yugoslavia and the European Economic Community has so far given good results and created a sound basis for further development of mutual relations, stated President of the Yugoslav Assembly Vojo Srzentic in the European Parliament here today, Tuesday.

Srzentic, heading a Yugoslav Assembly delegation to the talks with political groupings within the European Parliament, emphasized that Yugoslavia wishes to join in the international division of labour on an increasingly larger scale.

It is therefore essential that the traditional trade and financial framework currently prevailing in Yugoslavia's cooperation with the European Community by surmounted, he noted.

Greater opportunities for Yugoslav-EEC cooperation exist in industry, joint ventures, technology transfers and in some other fields, Srzentic said.

This should also enable a permanent change in the economic structure of Yugoslavia and the community can help much in this respect, said Srzentic.

He added, however, that although Yugoslav exports to the community countries are rising, occasional procedures against the alleged dumping prices of Yugoslav exports and protectionism, create [word indistinct] difficulties for Yugoslavia in cooperation with member countries of the European Community.

MARJAI, HUNGARIAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVE

LD180127 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1959 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade 17 Jan (TANJUG) -- The Hungarian Government delegation led by Dr Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Hungary, arrived in Belgrade tonight at the invitation of the Federal Executive Council.

During its stay in Yugoslavia, the Hungarian delegation will have meetings with high Yugoslav officials and exchange views on the present course of economic cooperation between the two countries and on the questions of its further promotion. Discussions will also be held on the preparations for adopting the forthcoming 5-year plans for development in Yugoslavia and the People's Republic of Hungary and on the possibilities for expanding trade between the two countries in this connection.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO U.S. -- Washington, 10 Jan (TANJUG) -- Mico Rakic, new Yugoslav ambassador to the United States, today presented his credentials to President Ronald Reagan. On this occasion, wishing Ambassador Rakic success in his work, President Reagan stressed the importance of strengthening and further developing cooperation between the two countries. Reagan also stressed the importance of the upcoming visit of Mika Splijak, president of the SFRY Presidency, to the United States and pointed out in this connection that this visit is evidence of a higher, fruitful, bilateral cooperation between the United States and Yugoslavia. The U.S. President stressed that his government attaches importance, extends support, and respects the Yugoslav independent and nonaligned policy. [Text] [BELGRADE BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 11 Jan 84 p 12 AU]

AUSTRIAN CREDIT AGREEMENT -- Vienna, 23 Dec (TANJUG) -- An agreement was signed at the Creditanstalt in Vienna on a financial credit amounting to $40 million, to be placed at Yugoslavia's disposal. This credit was granted as a part of the Austrian share in the Bern agreement, which approved a loan to our country to help it in the stabilization efforts. [Text] [Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 24-25 Dec 83 p 10 AU]

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA -- In 1984, the overall trade exchange between Yugoslavia and the Latin American countries should reach the value of some $250 million, of which Yugoslav exports will be worth $92.6 million and imports $157 million. In 10 months of last year, the value of trade between Yugoslavia and the Latin American countries totaled $247.5 million, of which Yugoslav exports were worth $59.5 million and imports $188 million. [Summary] [Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Jan 84 p 6 AU]